



A Vision of History

The Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine



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A Vision of History

Frontispiece. Joseph Horemans the elder.

Interior of a surgery with an operation in progress. 1721 (?). Above Case 14.



*An Exhibition to celebrate the 50th Anniversary
of The Wellcome Trust
1 September 1986 to 10 April 1987*

**A Vision of History
The Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine**

At the
Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BP



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ISBN 0 85484 053 2

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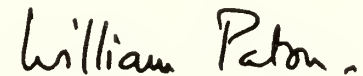
FOREWORD

Sir Henry Wellcome's charity, the Wellcome Trust, is celebrating in 1986 not simply fifty years of service to medical science but also its major contribution to the history of medicine in Great Britain and abroad.

The Wellcome Trust's stewardship of its founder's historical interests is realised in a wide variety of activities. This exhibition, which concentrates on the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, shows something of the Institute's origins but, more particularly, is aimed at explaining what the Institute has to offer the public for whose benefit it exists. The rich resources of books, manuscripts, archives and pictorial materials are displayed in generous proportion, but the principal intention of this exhibition is to show the Institute working to bring together readers and books; providing research materials for scholars and learning opportunities for students. Those who already know and use the Institute will be intrigued by a glimpse behind the scenes; newcomers may be attracted by the promise of unexpected opportunities for research and study.

Visitors are reminded that the Wellcome Trust's support for the history of medicine goes beyond the activities illustrated in this exhibition. Research and teaching Units are maintained at the universities of Cambridge, Glasgow and Oxford, while every year dozens of individual scholars benefit from personal grants and fellowships.

Sir Henry Wellcome believed that the history of medicine was one vital pathway to the proper study of mankind. The Trust which bears his name continues to strive to fulfil his vision of history.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Paton". The script is cursive and fluid, with a small flourish at the end.

William Paton
*Honorary Director and
Wellcome Trustee*

**A VISION OF HISTORY
THE WELLCOME INSTITUTE FOR THE HISTORY
OF MEDICINE**

**SIR HENRY WELLCOME AND THE WELLCOME
TRUST**

The Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine owes its origins to the collecting activities of Sir Henry Solomon Wellcome [1853-1936], the founder, with Silas Mainville Burroughs [1846-95], of the international pharmaceutical company, the Wellcome Foundation Ltd., still widely known as Burroughs Wellcome and Co. Over the last forty years of his life, Wellcome devoted much of his energies to the formation of the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum, a vast collection, ambitiously conceived as a museum of mankind with medicine at its centre, and incorporating a large library.

At his death the Museum and Library remained the responsibility of the Wellcome Foundation Ltd., and it was not until 1961 that ownership of the collections was transferred to the Wellcome Trust. The Wellcome Trust, which was created by Wellcome's will in 1936, is a charity which funds both biomedical research and research into the history of medicine.

This exhibition, which marks the golden jubilee of the Wellcome Trust, focuses on the growth and development of Wellcome's Museum and Library into the present Institute, and on the potential for research offered by the unique Wellcome collections. It shows not only what Wellcome himself created, but how the Wellcome Trust has added to that legacy, and how, in various ways, the staff of the Institute are working to make Wellcome's vision of history accessible to the world.



1. Hugh Goldwin Riviere. **Henry Solomon Wellcome** [1853-1936].
Centre Panel.



2. Wellcome Historical Medical Museum. The Hall of Statuary, 54 Wigmore Street. c.1926. Left Panel.

THE INSTITUTE YESTERDAY

In Wellcome's lifetime only the Museum achieved a public role. A selection of objects was exhibited at 54 Wigmore Street from 1913 to 1932 but the display was both overcrowded and, by modern standards, amateurishly arranged. The Library was never accessible to readers and any academic functions of both Library and Museum remained embryonic.

The Wellcome Building in the Euston Road was erected in 1931-32 to provide a permanent home for the Museum, but plans for a more extensive and scholarly presentation of the material were perforce abandoned in 1946 and the building was largely converted to the commercial purposes of the Wellcome Foundation. The

Museum was for several years exiled to 28 Portman Square. The Library remained in the Wellcome Building, occupying the room designed as the Museum's Hall of Statuary (modelled on a similar room at Wigmore Street), and was formally opened to readers in 1949. The makeshift fittings installed in the Library in 1946 were to remain until 1962, when the Reading Room began to assume its current appearance.

Although the Museum was able to return in 1955, it never regained adequate space. Finally, the Wellcome Trustees decided to transfer the medical and scientific material from the Museum on indefinite loan to the Science Museum, South Kensington, where it now occupies two large galleries, opened in 1980-81, and extensive storage space.

THE INSTITUTE TODAY

The Wellcome Institute is today one of the largest and most active centres for the history of medicine in the world. It has a staff of fifty, and its collections of books, manuscripts, periodicals, paintings, prints and photographs total upwards of 850,000 items. It collects, maintains and makes available materials in the history of medicine from all cultures and from all periods, from primitive man to the present day, and it serves as a national repository of literary and visual materials on the history of medicine. Its teaching and academic staff, its librarians, and associated Research Fellows explore and disseminate the wealth of its collections to the world-wide academic community through lectures, seminars, symposia and publications. Out of the acquisitions by Wellcome and his Trustees has come the imparting of knowledge to the rest of the world by the Institute that bears his name.

Centre

Hugh Goldwin Riviere [1869-1956]. **Henry Solomon Wellcome**. Oil on canvas, 112.5 × 88 cm. Signed and dated 1906.

Iconographic Coll. no. CC 9775.

Left

1. Cinchona Tercentenary Celebration

Reception organised by the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum at the Welbeck Palace Hotel, 15 December 1930.

Chairman: Sir Bijay Chand Mahtab, Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan [1881-1941].

Vice-Chairman: Henry S. Wellcome.

2. Wellcome Historical Medical Museum

The original Hall of Statuary, 54 Wigmore Street. c. 1926.



3. Cinchona Tercentenary Celebration, 1930. Wellcome is seated in the right foreground. Left Panel.

3. Wellcome Historical Medical Museum

The Hall of Statuary, 183 Euston Road, as originally arranged. Sir Henry Wellcome's favourite room in the Wellcome Building, designed after the similar room at 54 Wigmore Street.

4. Wellcome Historical Medical Library

The former Hall of Statuary adapted as a Reading Room, as arranged from 1946 to 1962.

5. Wellcome Historical Medical Museum

Visitors' Book. 1914-1928.

Among the visitors can be seen the names of Sir William Osler [1849-1919], Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford, in December 1914; in January 1928, Sir Geoffrey Keynes [1887-1982], surgeon and historian of medicine, giving his address as 1 Park Square West, the present home of the Wellcome Trust; and, in March 1928, Sir Henry Dale [1875-1968], joint winner of the Nobel Prize for medicine in 1936, and later chairman of the Wellcome Trustees.

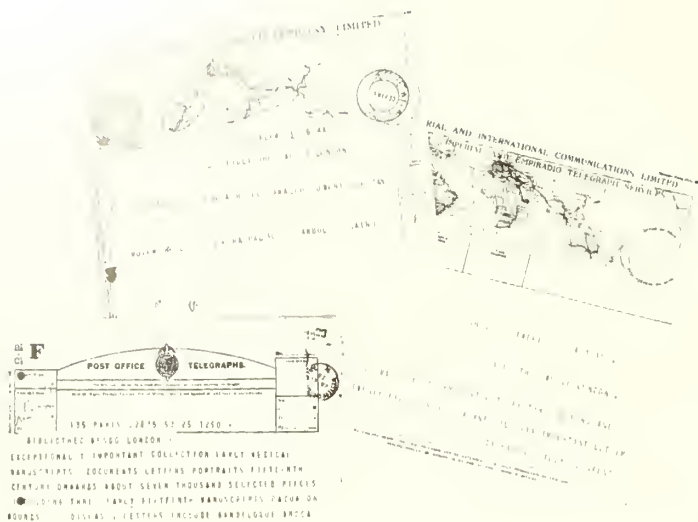
Right

1. The Reading Room, general view. 1986.

2. The Reading Room, undergraduate consulting secondary sources. 1986.

3. Reception, Symposium on hospitals and their architecture in the Victorian period. April 1986.

4. View in strong room, with early printed books. 1986.



4. Telegrams to Wellcome from Captain Johnston-Saint. Case 1.11.

Case 1 REALISING THE VISION: FROM MUSEUM TO INSTITUTE

Although Wellcome had certainly been collecting on his own account since his student days, the first record of systematic purchasing for the Library dates from 1897. From then until Wellcome's death in 1936 an intensive programme of acquisition was maintained. The London and provincial auction houses were kept under constant scrutiny, agents were retained in several European cities, and members of Wellcome's staff were sent periodically on collecting tours both in England and abroad. Wellcome himself played an

active part in this work: as far as possible, he personally examined auctioneers' catalogues, selected items for purchase and set the targets for bidding; decisions on a variety of matters affecting the Library and Museum had to be referred to him, even when he was abroad (1, 4). He regularly spent his winters on the Continent and devoted much of his time there to his collecting activities.

A constant feature of Wellcome's collecting was the element of secrecy. He never commissioned dealers to act for him. Much of the purchasing was carried out under false names – for many years the Library masqueraded as Epworth & Co., rare book dealers (5). Staff collecting abroad were normally required to conceal their connection with the Museum and, at home, bidding at auction was for the most part entrusted to junior employees in the hope that they would be unrecognised. It hardly needs to be said that these subterfuges had little effect. Wellcome's agents became a well-known feature of the salerooms, and the porters and clerks seem to have taken a malicious pleasure in exposing the identity of the younger buyers on their first visit.

Three members of Wellcome's staff deserve special mention for their role in building up the collections:

C.J.S. Thompson [1862-1943], a chemist by training, was the pivotal figure in the formation of the Museum and Library from 1897 until his retirement in 1925 (3-5). He both collected in person and co-ordinated the work of Wellcome's other agents; his continental travels took him as far afield as Constantinople. The arrangement of the display at 54 Wigmore Street was largely his work (16). Until 1913 he was nominally Librarian, but, when the Museum was formally opened, he was designated as its first Curator, Wellcome taking for

himself the title of Director. Under both titles, Thompson was responsible for important acquisitions both of artefacts and of library materials. Notable items are the Mockler collection of Jenneriana (see Case 2); memorabilia of Henry Hill Hickman [1800-1830] (pioneer of anaesthesia completely forgotten until rediscovered by Thompson; evidence of his work depends entirely on documents in this collection); and the façade of John Bell's pharmacy, still displayed in the Wellcome Building. In addition, Thompson attempted to carve an academic niche for the Museum by the publication of books and articles – unfortunately without obtaining Wellcome's formal permission.

Dr. Paira Mall [1874-1957] joined the staff of the Museum in 1910 as a specialist in oriental languages. The Library's rich oriental holdings are largely the result of his efforts (see Cases 10-11 and p.43 below).

Captain Peter Johnston-Saint [1886-1974] joined the Museum as Secretary in 1920 following service in the Indian Army and the Royal Flying Corps (9). From 1927 onwards he began to spend much of his time in travelling on the Museum's behalf both as a collector and as a general representative (11). In 1928 he was officially designated Foreign Secretary of the Museum and relieved of his routine secretarial duties. An entertaining series of diaries preserved in the Institute archives records his travels in France, Spain, Italy, North Africa, the Middle East, India, and Sri Lanka (10). From 1934 to 1947 he served as Conservator of the Museum, taking a major part in the organisation of the galleries, particularly of the Egyptian section.

Among his acquisitions were: Lister memorabilia; original specimens of cinchona; medical equipment of the Spanish royal family. He was engaged in a project



5. The Medieval Gallery, 183 Euston Road. 1946. Case 1.13B.

for forming a comprehensive collection of memorabilia of French scientists and medical men (apparatus, manuscripts, published writings, portraits). This effort so much impressed the French government that both Wellcome and Johnston-Saint were appointed to the Legion of Honour.

The Museum and Library were always regarded as academic institutions within the Research Division of the Wellcome organisation, but their potential was never fully realised during Wellcome's lifetime. Wellcome's passion for secrecy led him to impose an almost complete ban on publication by the staff. Although several successful exhibitions were mounted at Wigmore Street, there was not sufficient room to display more than a tiny fraction of the Museum collections (2, 7). From 1928 these were largely stored

...less factory near Willesden Junction, ... 1946 also housed the Library (12). The ... was staffed by professional librarians but no ... were admitted and even the Museum staff ... denied direct access to the shelves. Books and ... manuscripts did, however, always figure in the Museum displays.

The opening of the Wellcome Building in the Euston Road as a permanent home for the Museum (but not, originally, the Library) was delayed by Wellcome's death in 1936 and then by the Second World War (13). The destruction of the city headquarters of the Wellcome Foundation Ltd. and the subsequent conversion of the Building to largely commercial use brought about a change of plan. The Library remained, but the Museum was for a while exiled to Portman Square (14).

The scale of Wellcome's collecting also proved to be over-ambitious. After his death it became necessary to limit the scope of the collection to the history of medicine and the allied sciences and to reduce the vast and disparate accumulation of books and objects to manageable dimensions. A series of sales was held during 1937-39 and thereafter a programme for the distribution of surplus material by sale, gift or extended loan to appropriate institutions was intermittently in operation until 1983. Among the institutions enriched in this way have been: the British Library (Medici family papers), the National Maritime Museum (naval manuscripts), the Maltese National Archives (manuscripts relating to the Order of St. John), the Museum of Mankind and the University of California at Los Angeles (ethnographic material), the British Museum (prehistoric material), the Petrie Museum, University College London (Egyptian material).

The reduction in the size of the Museum's collections of objects made possible an expansion of the Library and its associated activities. Despite severe financial and other restrictions, Dr. E. Ashworth Underwood [1899-1980], Director 1946-64, arranged a number of important temporary exhibitions and encouraged the academic work of the staff by his own example (14B). He was succeeded as Director by Dr. F.N.L. Poynter [1908-79], Librarian 1954-64; Director 1964-73, to whom is due in large part the development of the Library as an active provider of knowledge (15). It was Dr. Poynter who initiated the concept of an academic Institute, which was finally established in its present functions under the guidance of Dr. E.S. Clarke [b.1919], Director 1973-79.

Case 1

1. William Morris [1834-96]. **Catalogue of a portion of the ... collection. Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge, 5 Dec., 1898 and five following days.**

With Wellcome's annotations.

2. **Historical medical exhibition.**

Circulars issued. c. 1907.

3-5. **C.J.S. Thompson [1862-1943]**

3. Portrait.

4. Extracts from C.J.S. Thompson's reports, 1911-17, some with annotations by Wellcome. Among the acquisitions mentioned are the Mockler collection of Jenner memorabilia, and the series of anatomical paintings by Jacques-Fabien Gautier d'Agoty [1717-85].

5. Receipts for purchases. 1924. Wellcome's insistence on secrecy will be noted. All these are made out either to Thompson himself or to the fictitious Epworth.

6-7. 54 Wigmore Street.

The home of the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum from 1911 to 1932 (now John Bell & Croyden's Pharmacy).

6A. The Hall of Primitive Medicine.

6B. 17th-Century Apothecary's shop.

7. Handbook for the first display, organised in 1913 for the 17th International Congress of Medicine.

8. **Stationery and publicity material.** 1913-86.

9-11. P.J. Johnston-Saint [1886-1974]

9. 'Poli'. Caricature of P.J. Johnston-Saint. Aswan. February 1932. Lent by the Viscountess Sandon.

10. Extracts from the diary of his tour in Egypt. February 1932. Apart from collecting, the object of the tour was to arrange for casts of carvings of medical interest.

11. Telegrams sent from his collecting tours.

12. 10 Hythe Road, Willesden.

The former Burndept Wireless Factory, bought in 1928 as a store for the collections, served as the headquarters of the Library until 1946.

Photograph taken in 1937 by J.L. Thornton, Library Assistant 1934-37; subsequently Librarian to St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College.

13. 183 Euston Road

The present Wellcome Building was erected in 1931-32, and the first, second and third floors were planned as galleries for the Historical Museum. By 1946 arrangement of the galleries was well advanced, but it then became necessary to allocate all the Museum's space to the Foundation's head offices.

13A. The Egyptian gallery, arranged by Captain Johnston-Saint.

13B. The Medieval gallery. 1946.

14. 28 Portman Square

Post-war difficulties forced the exile of the Museum from the Wellcome Building and the transfer of most of the objects to store. From 1947 to 1954, a central London presence was maintained at 28 Portman Square, where several important exhibitions were held.

14A. The Entrance Hall.

14B. The Director's Office. Left, Dr. E. Ashworth Underwood, Director 1946-64; right, A.D. Lacaille [1894-1975], Prehistoric Archaeologist 1928-59.

Dr. Underwood's directorship was frustrated by financial problems, but he did much to establish a high academic standard for the Museum.

15. F.N.L. Poynter [1908-79]

Dr. Poynter joined the staff as a junior library assistant in 1930 and devoted his whole working life to the Library and Museum. He served as Librarian from 1954 to 1964, and then until 1973 as Director. In 1961 he succeeded W.J. Bishop as editor of **Medical History**. He supervised the modernisation of both Library and Museum and initiated the concept of an academic institute.

16. A selection of exhibition catalogues.



dipes vulpis contriti proficiunt ad curand[um] ulc[er]
ri el[ec]tis cum ex eis faciant super inuocant[ur].
vulpis lingua siquis in art[er]ia habuerit et vel
fuit in b[er]cio potest et lup[us] ut n[on] poterit.
dipes vulpis cu[m] felle capri et oleo ro[sa]e tepe
to ceperit libet et in m[en]te et in aurem in fura[m] m[en]te
etiam facit. Si vero n[on] p[otes]t scilicet in t[em]p[or]e
admirat[ur] et si licet multu[m] curat[ur].
Eius vulpium and[er]i in melle et in inguina[m] cu
rant cum erit. fuerint in iunior[um].
Eius vulpium cu[m] sapone g[al]lico co[n]c[re]ta et caput
de p[er]si capillos rutilos et de it[er]o.
Cur vulpis uel etia[m] vulpium in m[en]te ingre
ditur et in potu[m] uultu[m] suspensio[n]is etia[m]
vulpium ad curand[um] siccit[as] et in aqua
et acutus et in potu[m] acceptis siccit[as] et in aqua
vulpis uultu[m] in oleo decoctat cu[m] cor[por]e etia[m] siccit[as]
uicant p[ro]p[ri]etate p[ro]f[ic]it etia[m] etia[m] p[ro]p[ri]etate

6. Sextus Placitus. *Liber de medicina ex animalibus*. Remedies obtained from the fox. Fol. 100v. Case 2.1.

Case 2 WESTERN MANUSCRIPTS: THE COLLECTION OF SIR HENRY WELLCOME

The first manuscript acquired by Henry Wellcome appears to have been a seventeenth-century medical recipe book compiled by Lady Ayscough, which was bought in 1897. From that time onwards, manuscripts

were acquired with increasing profusion and, as a result, the Wellcome Institute has in its care a magnificent collection, ranging in date from the third century A.D. almost to the present day. More than twenty European languages are represented (the majority of the manuscripts being in English, French, Italian, German, and Latin), and the collection documents almost every aspect of the history of medicine and the allied sciences. The three-volume catalogue of the Western manuscripts was prepared by S.A.J. Moorat [1892-1974], Librarian 1932-46; Keeper of Western Manuscripts 1946-73.

1. Sextus Placitus [fl. A.D. 500]. *Liber de medicina ex animalibus*. Italy. Mid 13th cent. Western MS. 573. Fols. 100v-101r.

This work describes drugs which can be made from animal substances, and their medicinal uses. All kinds of animals are regarded here as therapeutically useful, amongst them bulls, lions, rams, snakes, scorpions, wolves, monkeys, elephants, and camels. Folios 100v-103r record remedies made from foxes and hares. The liver or lung of the fox, for instance, finely chopped and taken in red wine, is said to be good for asthma, and hare's brains, rubbed on the gums of babies, good for teething. Purchased in Paris, 1933.

2. *The Apocalypse and other texts*. North Germany. First half of the 15th cent. Western MS.49. Fols. 25v-26r.

Although widely known as the Wellcome Apocalypse, this manuscript is in fact a miscellany, containing, as well as the *Apocalypse* and the *Life of St. John*, the *Ars moriendi* (the *Art of dying*), a remarkable series of anatomical and medical illustrations, and a group of moral allegories and exempla. It is strikingly illustrated with nearly 300 coloured drawings. The three principal illustrations on folios 25v-26r accompany the following texts:

'And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone . . . ' (**Revelation XX**, 10).

'And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them, and they were judged . . . ' (**Revelation XX**, 13).

'And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem . . . ' (**Revelation XXI**, 2).

Purchased at Sotheby's, 1931.

3. Matthaeus Platearius [d. 1161]. **Circa instans seu de medicamentis simplicibus**. France. Late 15th cent.

Western MS. 626. Fols. 9v-10r.

The **Circa instans**, ascribed to the Salernitan doctor Matthaeus Platearius, was one of the most popular medieval herbals. The manuscript on display is lavishly illustrated, with more than 400 miniatures of plants and other substances used in medicine. Folio 9v shows the plant **Apium emorroidarum**, and describes how it may be put in a cloth and tied to the head as a treatment for lunacy. It also shows the soaking of wheat in a tub of water for the manufacture of **amidum**, or starch, which is said to be good for the respiratory organs and for coughs. Folio 10r has a miniature illustrating the extraction of antimony from the earth.

Purchased from a London bookseller, 1935.

4. Pierre Boaistuau [c. 1520-66]. **Histoires prodigieuses**. France. 1560.

Western MS. 136. Binding.

This work tells a succession of extravagant stories concerning prodigies of nature, such as multiple or monstrous births, wild storms, and Siamese twins. It is illustrated with 42 miniatures in gold and other colours, and retains its original finely tooled binding. It was prepared for presentation to Queen Elizabeth I, who, however, appears to have declined it; the printed edition, published in Paris in 1560, carries an alternative dedication. Chapter 27 tells the stories of two princesses who could not be harmed by fire. One was Emma [d. 1052], mother of Edward the Confessor, who is said to have cleared her name from slander by an ordeal by fire.

Purchased at Sotheby's in 1931.

5. **Arzneibuch**. Austria or South Germany. c. 1675.

Western MS. 990. Pp. 83-84.

Arzneibücher, of which many examples survive, were popular compendia of medicine and surgery. The volume on display contains a large number of water-colours, many showing doctors, and sometimes patients, in the habit of the Franciscan order. It may therefore have been intended for the use of a religious house. It reveals an unusual interest in ophthalmology, with some 60 illustrations of morbid states of the eye and of operations. Pages 82 to 85, 'von den fistlen der augen', describe the treatment of lacrimal fistula.

Purchased in 1922.

6. Edward Jenner [1749-1823]. **An inquiry into the natural history of a disease . . . the cow-pox**. Berkeley. 1797.

Western MS. 3019. Pp. 26-27.

The publication in 1798 of Jenner's **Inquiry**, which introduced vaccination against smallpox, was an event of outstanding medical and social importance. The manuscript on display is the earliest known draft of the **Inquiry**. It is in the hand of Jenner's nephew, William Davies [1769-1849], who acted as his secretary. It also contains modifications suggested in pencil by Jenner's friend Richard Worthington, and further corrections in the hand of Jenner himself. The manuscript was dated by Jenner 29 March 1797.

From the Mockler collection relating to Jenner and his family, acquired in 1911 and 1918.

7. George Kirtland [fl. 1802]. **Series of watercolours showing the comparative effects of variolation and vaccination**. 1802.

Western MS. 3115.

Inoculation with smallpox virus, or variolation, came to be widely practised in 18th-century England. The intention was to induce a comparatively mild attack of smallpox and subsequent immunity. The practice was, however, a dangerous one, which frequently resulted in death. Edward Jenner's safer alternative was vaccination, which used the virus of cowpox in place of that of smallpox. The watercolours on display show, day by day, the comparative results of variolation and vaccination. By day 13 the arm inoculated with smallpox virus (on the left) displays a far more violent

...by which has been vaccinated (on the ... watercolours, completed in 1802, are copies ... in the previous year by Captain Charles ... 1923.

6. Dominique Jean Larrey, Baron Larrey [1766-1842]. **Letters and campaign journal. 1807-14.** Western MSS. 3172, 5316/51-57.

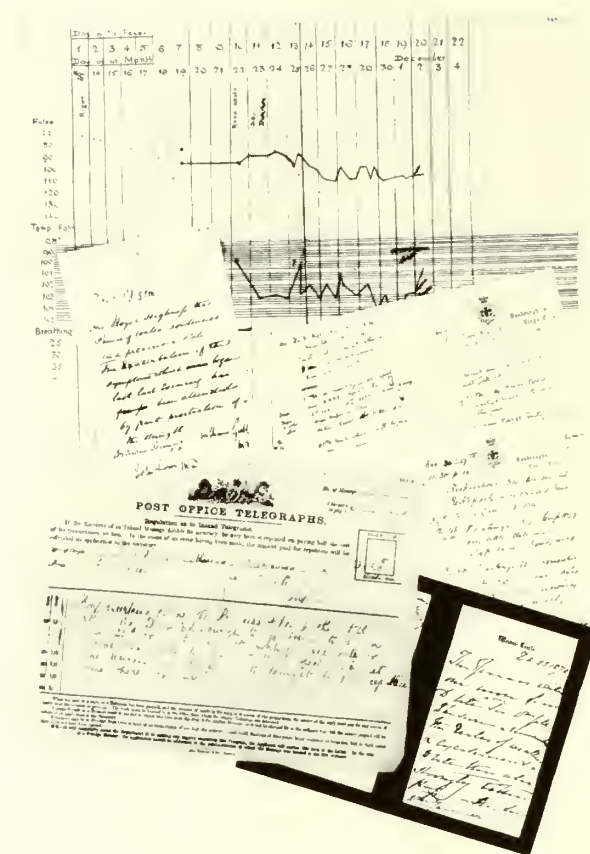
Larrey, who was Surgeon-in-Chief of Napoleon's army, exercised an important influence on military surgery. He invented the flying ambulance, which he employed in the midst of the fighting, and developed a system for evacuating the wounded to base camps. His speed in dressing wounds and performing amputations, sometimes on the field of battle, was legendary.

The Wellcome Institute has over 150 letters written by Larrey to his wife and children while on campaign. Those on display, written to Mme Larrey at the end of the campaign against Russia in 1807, include an account of the famous meeting between Napoleon and Czar Alexander I on a raft in the river Niemen at Tilsit. Also shown is Larrey's campaign journal of 1813-14.

Purchased 1930. Formerly in the library of Lord Crawford and Balcarres.

9. Sir William Withey Gull [1816-90]. **Correspondence and papers relating to his treatment of the Prince of Wales, afterwards Edward VII, for typhoid.** Sandringham. 1871-72. Western MS. 5873.

Included among the papers are drafts and copies of medical bulletins on the Prince, clinical notes, diet sheets (in which the course of the illness may be traced from beef tea and chicken broth to oysters, pheasant, and asparagus), and letters and telegrams from Queen Victoria. The seriousness of the illness was such that on 8 December one of the Prince's physicians, Sir William Jenner [1815-98], declared that he would be satisfied if the Prince lived until 4 p.m., when the Queen was due to arrive. All the same, signs of the Prince's recovery appeared on 14 December, and in January Gull was made a baronet. Purchased at Sotheby's, 1931.



7. Telegrams and correspondence relating to the treatment of the Prince of Wales, afterwards Edward VII, in 1871-72. Case 2.9.



8. *Arzneibuch*, c.1675. The treatment of lacrimal fistula. P.83. Case 2.5.

Case 3 WESTERN MANUSCRIPTS: THE ERA OF THE WELLCOME TRUST 1936-86

Since the death of Sir Henry Wellcome in 1936, inflation in the market for rare books and manuscripts has brought to an end the age of the collector on the grand scale. The Wellcome Trust has nevertheless made significant additions to the collection. The manuscripts which it has acquired represent a discriminating selection, closer to the central theme of medicine and predominantly British in origin.

Particular effort has been made to acquire manuscripts which offer research opportunities to medical historians. In addition, many private owners have generously presented letters and papers, or deposited them in the Institute's care, where they are preserved for posterity and made available for research.

1. **Anglo-Saxon medical manuscript.** England. Early 11th cent.
Western MS. 46.

One of the earliest manuscripts in the collection, this Anglo-Saxon fragment describes internal remedies for heartache and for diseases of the lungs and liver, and ointments for tumours and bleeding piles. The ingredients are herbal, with the addition of butter, honey, and milk.

The extreme rarity of Anglo-Saxon medical manuscripts – scarcely a dozen are in existence – emphasizes the importance of this one, which was discovered in a sixteenth-century binding in the library of Viscount Clifden. Purchased at Sotheby's, 1956.

2. **Articella and other tracts.** South Italy. 12th cent., and England. 13-14th cent.
Western MS. 801A. Fols. 2v-3r.

The **Articella**, a collection of medical treatises which included the **Prognostics** and the **Aphorisms** of Hippocrates [fl. 390 B.C.] and the **Ars medica** of Galen [129.-c. 200], was a standard textbook of medieval medical education. The present manuscript is of outstanding importance, being the earliest **Articella** manuscript in existence, and the only surviving one which derives from the Salerno region. It is one of only two which preserve the earliest form of the collection, consisting of five of the seven texts included in the first printed edition of 1476. Written in southern Italy, possibly at Monte Cassino, in the 12th century, it was acquired in the 13th century by Bury St. Edmund's Abbey, where additional texts were added. On folio 2v begins the **Isagoge** (Introduction) of Johannitius [c. 809-73]. At the top of the page can be seen evidence of the manuscript's provenance, 'M.27. Liber monachorum Sancti Edmundi'. Acquired from the Cathedral Chapter of Bury St. Edmunds in 1971.



9. Degree certificate awarded to Bartholomaeus Pergamus after examination by the College of Philosophers and Physicians of Padua. 1689. Case 3.5.

3. Gariopontus [died c. 1050]. **Passionarius**. Italy?. Late 12th cent. MSL MS. 133. Fols. 46v-47r.

The **Passionarius** is a manual of special pathology and therapeutics of Byzantine origin, which was translated and edited by the Salernitan teacher Gariopontus. It is one of the earliest manuscripts in the collection of the Medical Society of London, acquired by the Wellcome Trust in 1984.

4. **Medical recipe collection**. England. Early 15th cent. Western MS. 5262. Binding.

This collection, written in Middle English, was compiled in the Worcestershire area in the first quarter of the fifteenth century. It records over two hundred recipes and charms to cure such conditions as headache, eye disorders, worms, loss of appetite, spitting of blood, incontinence, gout, and burns. The volume retains its contemporary binding of bevelled wooden boards sewn on four double thongs. Purchased at Sotheby's, 1985.

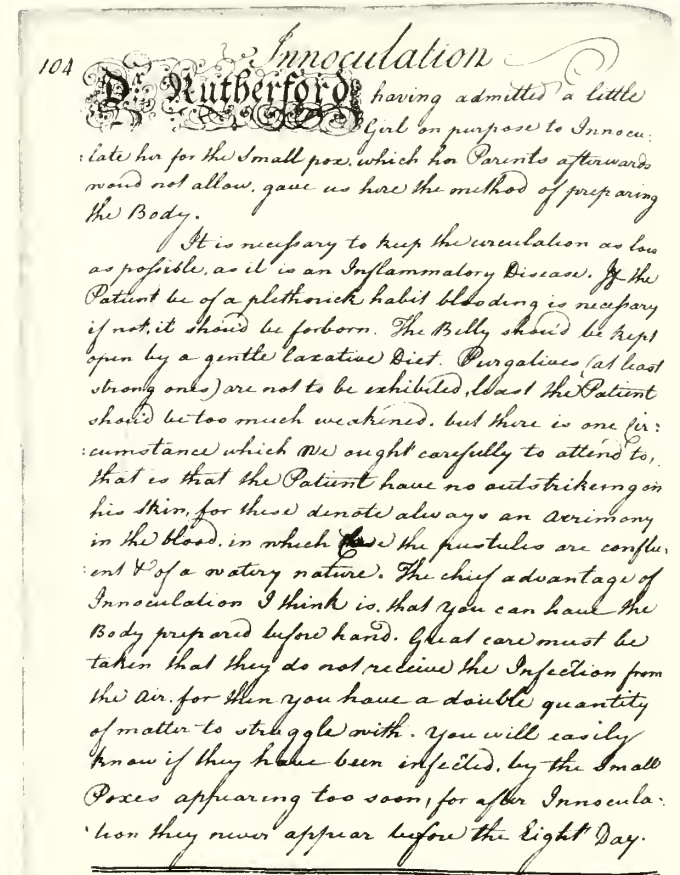
5-6 **Certificates of degrees in philosophy and medicine awarded at the University of Padua**. 1689-91.

The University of Padua in the seventeenth century attracted medical staff and students not only from within Italy, where it rivalled Bologna as the leading medical school, but also from elsewhere in Europe. William Harvey [1578-1657] studied there from 1600 to 1602, and the famous German anatomist Johann Vesling [1598-1649] taught there from 1632 until his death.

5. Certificate awarded to Bartholomaeus Pergamus of Crema, illuminated with the arms of his family. The degree was awarded by a representative of the Bishop of Padua, after examination by the College of Philosophers and Physicians, 4 July 1689. Western MS. 3833. Purchased at Sotheby's, 1942.

6. Certificate awarded 6 October 1691, to Jacobus Stupanus, of the Engadine valley in the Grisons, Switzerland, with its original Venetian decorated binding and seal. The degree was awarded by the **Collegio Veneto**, which granted

degrees by state rather than ecclesiastical authority, and without a profession of Catholic faith. The **Collegio** thus enabled Protestants to graduate at Padua. Western MS. 4730. Purchased 1968.



10. An Edinburgh student's notes on John Rutherford's lecture on inoculation for smallpox. 1751. P.104. Case 3.7.

1695-1779]. **Notes on his clinical**
Pp. 104-5.

The clinical teaching of medicine at Edinburgh, which contributed so much to the city's fame as a centre of medical education, was begun by John Rutherford. In 1748 he was given permission to give clinical lectures in the Royal Infirmary. They were an immediate success, and within two years he was allotted a special ward for his own use. The notes on display were written by an unknown student in 1751. Pages 104 and 105 record Rutherford's method of variolation (inoculation for smallpox), and a case of diarrhoea and haemoptoe (spitting blood). The volume was formerly in the collection of John Coakley Lettsom [1744-1815], and was acquired with the manuscripts of the Medical Society of London in 1984.

8. George Rolleston [1829-81]. **Correspondence.** 1860-80.

Letters to Rolleston, who was Linacre Professor of Anatomy and Physiology at Oxford, mainly from fellow scientists. Included are letters from Charles Darwin, Joseph Dalton Hooker (written from Down, 1874, following the death of his wife, 'I have come here to Darwin's for quiet and comfort'), Friedrich Max Müller, Charles Spence Bate, R. Dudley Baxter (1870, 'Will there be any chance for me, as a statistician, of being elected an F.R.S.?'), and Sir John Lubbock.

From papers of George Rolleston and Sir Humphry Davy Rolleston [1862-1944], presented by Mrs C. Byam Shaw, 1983.

9. The Medical Club, afterwards the Sydenham Club. **Album containing portrait photographs of members.** London. Second half of the 19th cent. Western MS. 6679.

Founded in the 18th century, the Medical Club was a convivial dining society open to physicians and surgeons. Its account books, extant from 1796, record the dinners taken and also the bets which members laid one against another, the winners being paid in champagne or other wines. During the Crimean War in 1854, for instance, a wager was taken

'that Miss Nightingale is not married by the next meeting', and, more irreverently, 'that Miss Nightingale has a child by this day twelvemonth'.

The portraits displayed are those of R.L. Thorn, M.R.C.S. [d. 1874], Thomas Harrington Tuke, F.R.C.P. [1826-88], a well-known specialist in the treatment of the insane, William Wadham, F.R.C.P. [1823-97], physician and lecturer at St. George's Hospital, and Henry Thompson, F.R.C.P. [1815-97], physician and lecturer at the Middlesex Hospital.

The first two portraits, by the firms of, respectively, Negretti & Zambra and Elliot & Fry, date from after 1868, while the latter two can be attributed to Maull & Polyblank and are dated 1856.

Deposited by the Sydenham Club, 1982.

10. Joseph Lister, 1st Baron Lister [1827-1912]. **Correspondence and photographs.** 1838-c.1890.

Joseph Lister's introduction of antiseptic methods brought about a revolution in the practice of surgery, and greatly enlarged its scope. The Institute has in its care several important groups of his papers. 'On display are the **Upton Journal 26 Nov.-7 Dec. 1838** (letters to Lister while at school from his brothers and sisters); a gilt-framed wedding photograph of Joseph and Agnes Lister, 1856; letters to Lister from his brother Arthur and his father-in-law James Syme, 1856-69; and a photograph of Lister with assistants and nurses at King's College Hospital, c.1890.

Presented by Mrs. G. Dowrick, 1981.

11. Holloway Sanatorium Hospital for the Insane, Virginia Water, Surrey. **Case book.** 1890-1907. Western MS. 5158. Pp. 41-42.

Founded by Thomas Holloway [1800-83], the hospital opened in 1885 as an asylum for the middle and upper classes. The case book on display contains notes by the medical staff on certified female patients admitted between 1890 and 1891. Many photographs of patients are included. Clinical photography had been pioneered by Dr. Hugh Welch Diamond [1809-86], himself the owner of a private asylum, and its value to psychiatry was well established by the end of the nineteenth century.



11. Clinical photographs by F. Parkes Weber. Case 4.10.

Case 4 CONTEMPORARY MEDICAL ARCHIVES CENTRE: THE FIRST SEVEN YEARS

The Contemporary Medical Archives Centre was established in 1979 to collect and catalogue the papers and records of twentieth-century British medical practitioners and scientists, as well as to build up information on relevant collections held elsewhere. The archive reflects all aspects of modern medicine, from research leading to major scientific advances, through clinical practice and public health, to unorthodox and fringe medicine. Over 20 collections have been given to or deposited with the Centre.

When papers are to be handed over to the Centre, the archivists usually collect them themselves, for they can thus see how they have been kept or arranged, which will affect the ways in which the collection is subsequently listed. Temporary transfer boxes are used for the first stage of moving a collection and for housing it during sorting and listing. Often the papers arrive in old suitcases or hastily packed in cardboard boxes, and occasionally in their original trunks. All types of container can be seen in the photographs of the transfer of the collection of Lord Moran [1882-1977]; while the diaries of Sir Albert Cook [1870-1951], a medical missionary in Uganda, were kept in their original chests. After sorting and classification, and the notification of any conservation work necessary, the papers are placed in acid-free files in archive boxes. The reader can quickly see the scope of each collection by checking the appropriate list and can then order the relevant papers.

The items on display in this case also show the wide variety of the material held by the Centre, both in format (manuscript notes, photographs, and tape-recordings) and in content (from the research papers of the eminent to routine administrative records).

1-4. The Lister Institute

Founded in 1893 as the British Institute of Preventive Medicine and later named the Jenner Institute, the Lister Institute carried out notable work on viruses, genes, blood, disinfection and nutrition.

1. Photograph of Lord Lister [1827-1912].
CMAC: SA/LIS/R.32.

2. Photographs of the Institute's laboratories. Date unknown.
CMAC: SA/LIS/R.168,181.

3. Draft agreement between Lord Iveagh and the Jenner Institute relating to his proposed contribution to its support. 1899.
CMAC: SA/LIS/H.5 f.15.

10001-1001 Lister in response to a proposal to rename
the Institute after himself. 1903.
CMAC/SA/VES F 30.

7-6. **Frederick Parkes Weber** [1863-1962]

Dr. Parkes Weber was a distinguished physician with a particular interest in rare diseases and unusual manifestations of disease. His extensive collection of papers was sufficiently well known to be mentioned in his obituaries. These characteristic examples show the typical conjunction of his own clinical observations (sometimes written on the back of clinical photographs) with correspondence from his colleagues and cuttings and articles from the contemporary medical press.

5. F. Parkes Weber. Case notes with related material.
CMAC: EP/FPW.

6. F. Parkes Weber. Clinical Photographs.
CMAC: EP/FPW.

7-9 **Sir Edward Sharpey-Schafer** [1850-1935]

Sharpey-Schafer was a distinguished physiologist who made important contributions to the study of nerve fibres and cerebral localization. He was Jodrell Professor of Physiology at University College London from 1883 to 1899 and subsequently professor of physiology at Edinburgh until 1933. His papers and photographs, many taken by himself, include substantial correspondence with Sir Victor Horsley [1857-1916].

7. Notebook describing experiments performed in collaboration with Horsley. 1884.
CMAC: PP/ESS/B.17/11.

8. Letters between Sharpey-Schafer and Horsley. 1896.
CMAC: PP/ESS/B.18/4,5,9,12.

In 1896 the two quarrelled over the appointment to the chair of pathology at University College London. Sharpey-Schafer supported Dr. Sydney Martin [1860-1927], and Horsley Dr. Vaughan Harley [1863-1923], who was subsequently appointed. The bitterness of the quarrel can be seen in the opening addresses, which go from the familiar (My dear Edward/Victor) to the icy (Dear Professor Horsley/Schafer).

9. Sir Edward Sharpey-Schafer. Photograph, perhaps taken by himself. c.1890.

10-12 **The Voluntary Euthanasia Society**

Founded in 1935 as the Voluntary Euthanasia Legalisation Society, the Society aimed to make it legal for doctors to give an easy death to those terminally ill patients who requested it. The Society, which had several eminent supporters, published many booklets and leaflets to make its aims wider known.

10. The first membership register. 1935.
CMAC/SA/VES/A.6.

11. A volume of cuttings about Society members. 1939-50.
CMAC/SA/VES/A.6.

12. Copies of various publications by the Society. 1936-62.
CMAC/SA/VES/B.1, B.4.

Kee - Presidents

President - The Rt. Hon. Lord Macclesfield KCAG, CB. D.C.L. LL.D.
10.10.11

The Rt. Hon. Lord Passfield of Shillington
Shillington Park
Berkshire

The Hon. Lord Harewood
Watford Castle. Watford

The Lady Darnley, D.C.E.
Blenheim Place, Balmaine, London
10.10.11

Sir Arthur...
10.10.11

12. The first membership register of the Voluntary Euthanasia Society. 1935. P.1. Case 4.14.

Case 5 CONTEMPORARY MEDICAL ARCHIVES CENTRE: EXPLOITING THE ARCHIVES

The work of the Centre does not end with the listing of the papers in its care. It also actively encourages others to use them in their researches. Shown here are samples from four collections which have been recently used in authoritative works of scholarship.

1-3. **Sir Ernst Chain** [1906-1979]

Among the papers of Sir Ernst Chain, joint winner of the Nobel Prize for medicine in 1945 for his work on penicillin, are many letters on the development of penicillin during the war. They are cited at length by Ronald Clark in his 1985 biography of Chain.

1. Letter to Dr. L.A. Epstein. 19 November 1940.
CMAC/PP/EBC/B.21.

2. Letter to Sir Robert Robinson [1886-1975]. 24 May 1943.
CMAC/PP/ERBC/B.23.

3. Ronald Clark. **The life of Ernst Chain: penicillin and beyond.** London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson. 1985. Cover.

4-5 **Melanie Klein** [1882-1960]

Melanie Klein, who moved in 1926 from Berlin to London, was an early pioneer of child analysis. Her findings influenced modern ideas on education and child guidance, and the development of the 'British School' of psychoanalytic thought.

4. Photograph of Melanie Klein. 1952.

5. Phyllis Grosskurth. **Melanie Klein. Her world and her work.** London: Hodder & Stoughton. 1986. Cover.

6-8. **Marie Stopes** [1880-1958]

With her books on sexual matters, such as **Married Love** and **Wise Parenthood**, Marie Stopes became a figure of great



13. Sir David Low. **Caricature of Marie Stopes.** c.1931. Case 5.8.

the Centre has 300 files of her correspondence with the general public, the medical profession and the press. These will constitute a valuable source for the study of various aspects of sexual beliefs and behaviour from 1918 to 1931. Many of these letters were published in 1978 by Ruth Hall.

6. Ruth Hall. **Dear Dr. Stopes**. London: André Deutsch. 1978.

7. Marie Stopes. **Correspondence**. 1920-30.
CMAC/PP/MCS/A.1

8. Sir David Low [1892-1963]. **Caricature of Marie Stopes**. c.1931.
Reproduction of lithograph, inscribed 'Very unlike Marie C. Stopes!'
Iconographic Coll. Inv. no. 336291.

9-11. **The Eugenics Society**

The records of this society, which was founded in 1908 as the Eugenics Education Society, are the most heavily used of all the Centre's collections. On show are documents distributed by the Society to encourage people to investigate and record their family history. The resulting pedigrees would, it was hoped, be useful to the individual, and also provide the Society with educational material and evidence for its theories about the importance of heredity in improving the human race.

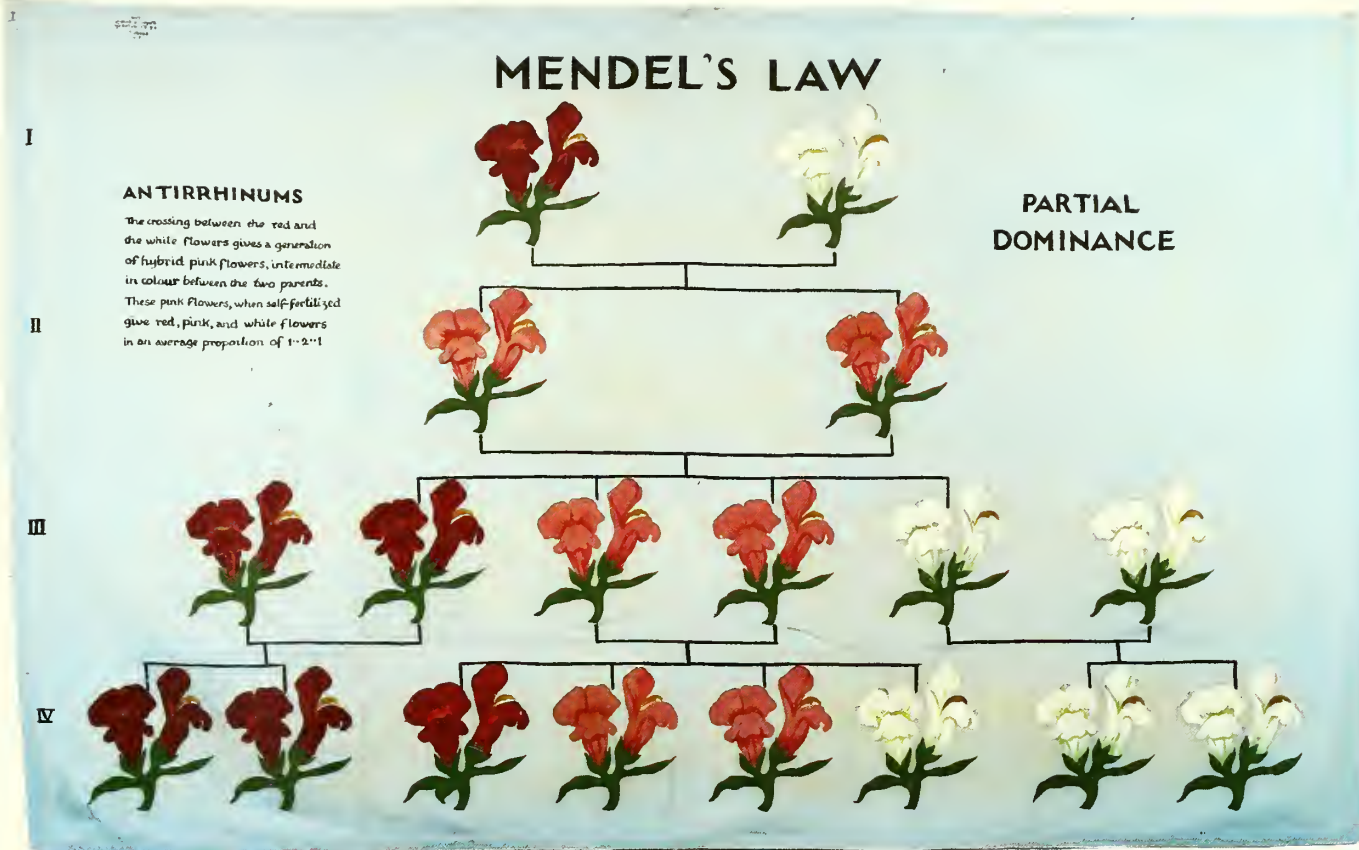
9. Pedigree chart. c.1935-40.
CMAC: SA/EUG/F.6.

10. Calico sheet on Mendel's law of heredity.
Undated. Photographic reproduction.
CMAC: SA/EUG/G.32.

11. Daniel J. Kevles. **In the name of eugenics**. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. 1986. Cover.

In addition to housing and making available its own collections, the Centre has undertaken surveys of relevant material elsewhere, in both public and private hands, and given advice on the housing and conservation of such records. Much of the information

in the Centre's registers will be incorporated in a projected **Wellcome Institute Guide to Sources in the History of Medicine**. Hospital records are among the most valuable of these sources, and among those most at risk, for many are often poorly housed and unlisted. A computerised index, based on a series of questionnaires, is being compiled in conjunction with the Public Record Office, since N.H.S. hospital records are public records. The Centre also encourages a greater awareness of the problems of selecting and sampling hospital records, and it helped to organise a meeting on this theme at the King's Fund Centre, London, in May 1985.



14. Calico sheet produced by the Eugenics Society to demonstrate Mendel's law of heredity. Case 5.10.



15. John Browne. **Adenochoradologia**. 1684. The book retains its original red turkey binding with gold tooling. Case 7.1.

In any library it is normally the printed books which occupy the most prominent position. They are usually the largest element in bulk and the only section to be placed partly on open access; the older and more valuable material, which may range in date from the invention of printing in the 15th century to the present day, obviously requires particular consideration and is usually kept separately. In a specialised library like that of the Wellcome Institute there is also an important functional distinction between the primary and secondary materials. The **primary** collections comprise the original source materials, which act as the foundation of the **secondary** works devoted to the history of medicine and other topics.

Primary materials are not confined to the early printed books. Medical textbooks of the early 20th century, for example, are already studied from a historical viewpoint, as current publications will be in the future. In physical form also, an apparently insignificant pamphlet may contain the first appearance of an important scientific discovery, and such ephemeral items as patent medicine advertisements are of great value to the historian.

EARLY PRINTED BOOKS

The early printed books (defined for convenience as those printed before 1851) comprise over 600 incunables (books printed before 1501), some 13,000 books from the 16th and 17th centuries and over 40,000 from the 18th and early 19th centuries. Medicine forms the central core, but there is strong coverage of the

sciences, especially chemistry and biology; and such subjects as alchemy, astrology and the occult, pharmacy and veterinary medicine, are also well represented. Travel books also contain much medical and anthropological information, and cookery books are relevant to the history of diet and nutrition. In addition, the collection is well supplied with supporting material in general history and bibliography.

The bulk of the collection was acquired in Wellcome's lifetime and reflects his own interests and, to some extent, those of earlier collectors. Wellcome's first major purchase was of about a third of the library of William Morris [1834-96] in 1898, which included many fine examples of early printing. The acquisition of the main part of the library of Dr. J.F. Payne [1840-1910] in 1911 brought the remarkably comprehensive collection of a physician and medical historian. The collection of the French pharmacist Louis Debacq [d. 1914], purchased in 1919, provided the Library with an extensive coverage of French medicine and science, with a strong bias towards Debacq's own subjects of chemistry and pharmacy. Apart from the Morris and Payne sales, the Library's third major source of incunables was the sale of the Munich publisher Kurt Wolff [1887-1963] at Frankfurt in 1926. Much of the Library's strength in alchemy and early chemistry derives from the books purchased from the historian Ernst Darmstaedter [1877-1938] in 1931.

Institutional collections are also represented: the duplicates from the Dutch Royal Library bought in 1923 account for the Library's strong Dutch holdings (including a number of specially bound presentation copies), and the duplicate medical books acquired from Manchester University in 1930 reflect the Manchester obstetrical tradition.

Since Wellcome's death, bulk acquisitions of early books have seldom been possible. Exceptions are Dr. Francisco Guerra's collection of medical Americana, acquired in 1962, and a substantial part of the library of the Medical Society of London, bought in 1984, which preserves much of the character of a medical library of the Georgian period. This latter acquisition was made possible with the assistance of the National Heritage Memorial Fund and other charities. To a large extent, however, post-war acquisitions have not been by purchase. In the 1950s, at a time of financial restriction, the Library was able to make up for its lack of purchasing power by acting as a clearing-house for the exchange scheme organised by the Medical Section of the Library Association. More recently, a large collection of mainly 18th- and 19th-century works has been deposited on loan by the Royal Society of Medicine, and the library of the Royal Society of Health, presented in 1984, contains a number of pre-1851 books. In contrast to the eclectic purchasing of Wellcome's time, these recent collections have tended to be primarily medical, and complement the Library's earlier holdings.

THE MODERN MEDICINE COLLECTION

The Modern Medicine Collection, which comprises material published after 1850, contains at present about 70,000 titles, excluding pamphlets and offprints. Its range is wide, from learned treatises and textbooks to laboratory manuals, government reports, home medical manuals, propaganda sheets, and commercial catalogues of pharmaceutical and surgical equipment manufacturers. As well as works on medicine, nursing and public health, there is much on related subjects such as anthropology, sociology and engineering.

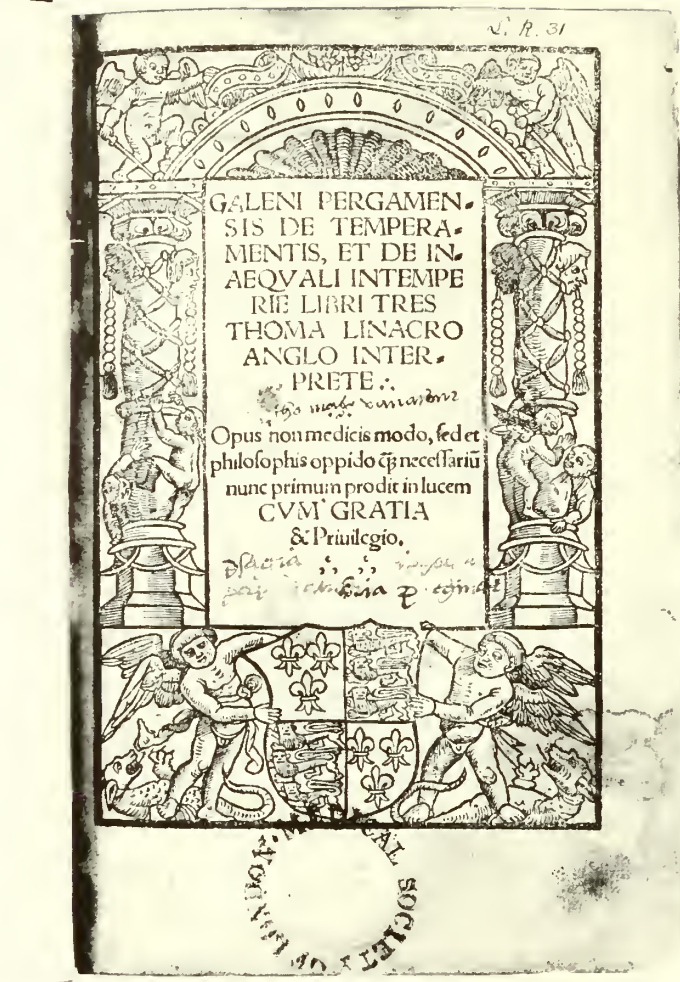
the core of the collection was acquired by himself, it has since grown through donations from libraries and individuals and purchasing. Recent important acquisitions include

the Cyriax Collection, given to the Royal Society of Medicine by the Cyriax family and acquired by the Institute in 1956 for £10.00. It is particularly strong on orthopaedics, mechanotherapy and medical gymnastics.

the Royal Society of Health Library, presented to the Institute in July 1984.

books from the British Medical Association Library. Almost 30,000 volumes of monographs and periodicals from the B.M.A. Library were transferred to the Institute in 1985, and have strengthened considerably the Library's holdings in modern clinical medicine.

the Lewis Collection. On indefinite loan since 1982, the library of Sir Thomas Lewis, F.R.S. [1881-1945] is a major source for the history of modern cardiology.



16. Galen. *De temperamentis et de inaequali intemperie*. 1521. Title-page. Printed at the first Cambridge press, it is signed by Thomas Vavasour. Case 6.2.

PRINTED BOOKS: PRIMARY SOURCES I

The volumes in this case have been selected for their importance in the advancement of medical knowledge from the Renaissance to the 20th century. Most of them are also of bibliographical significance either for their rarity or for the high standard of their production.

1. Galen [129-c.200]. **De sanitate tuenda libri sex Thoma Linacro . . . interprete.** Paris: G. Rubeus. 1517. MSL Purchase. Title-page.

The Roman physician Galen was the dominant medical authority throughout the Middle Ages. In the Renaissance, accurate editions of the original Greek text of his writings were produced and various translators published new Latin versions. This is the earliest of the translations made by Thomas Linacre [c.1460-1524], humanist scholar and founder of the Royal College of Physicians of London. The present copy formerly belonged to the 16th-century Paris surgeon and book collector François Rasse Des Neux [d.1589/90].

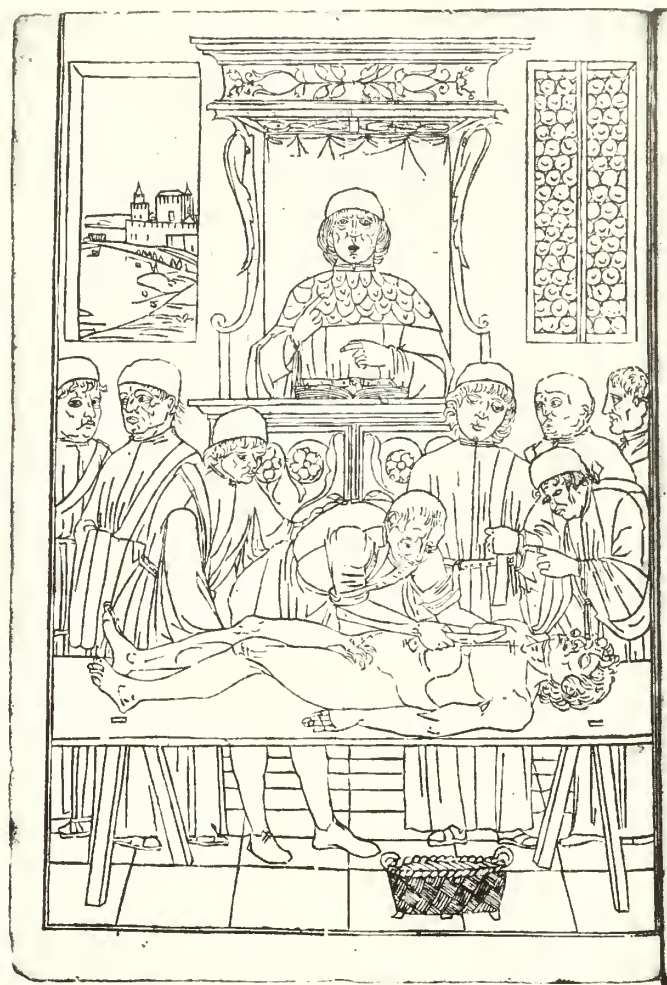
2. Galen [129-c.200]. **De temperamentis et de inaequali intemperie libri tres Thoma Linacro interprete.** Cambridge: J. Siberch. 1521. MSL Purchase. Title-page.

The first of Linacre's translations of Galen to be printed in England, a product of the short-lived first Cambridge press of 1521-22 from which seven books have been recorded. This copy is of the second issue; copies exist of an earlier state omitting **De inaequali intemperie**. The title-page has the signature of Thomas Vavasour [fl. 1535-74], a York physician who was imprisoned for his Roman Catholicism under Queen Elizabeth I.

3. Johannes de Ketham [fl. 14th cent.]. **Fasciculus medicinae.** [With other tracts, including Mundinus, **Anatomia.**] Venice: J. & G. de Gregoriis. 1495. WIHM 3544 (Poynter 341). Fols. e2v-e3r.

The second Latin edition. The dissection scene used to accompany the work of Mundinus [d.1318] provides an excellent representation of pre-Vesalian anatomical

teaching at Padua. The text of Mundinus is being read from a rostrum by a senior student, while an assistant performs the actual dissection and the professor stands by to expound the relationship between book and body.



17. Mundinus. **Anatomia.** 1495. Fol. e2v. Pre-Vesalian anatomical teaching at Padua. Case 6.3.

4. Hieronymus [1514-64]. **De humani corporis fabrica.**
 Basel: Hieronymus. 1543.
 WIHM 1000. Decima musculorum tabula.

Jerome of Brussels became professor of surgery at Padua in 1537. The text and illustrations, based on his own dissections, represent a revolution in anatomical knowledge, overturning the Galenic tradition handed down since Roman times. The book is also of significance as a work of art in its own right and as a magnificent example of book production.

The anatomical woodcuts were long attributed to Titian [d. 1576] but are now thought to be by Johan Steven van Kalker [1499-c.1546]. The illusionistic landscapes are probably after Domenico Campagnola [1484-c.1551].

5. and 6. Anatomical Fugitive Sheets. **Vif pourtrait des parties interieures du corps humain. Anatomie tresutile pour congnoistre les parties interieures de la femme.**
 Paris: A. de Matonniere. [c.1560.]
 WIHM 292.

Broadsheet anatomical illustrations with superimposed flaps to show the internal organs were a popular instructional aid of the early 16th century. They are often known as 'Adam and Eve figures'. Few examples now survive but it is clear that the tradition was once widespread in Italy, France and Germany; there are also a few instances from England.

7. William Harvey [1578-1657]. **Exercitatio anatomica de motu cordis et sanguinis in animalibus.** Frankfurt: W. Fitzer. 1628.
 WIHM 3069. Plate between pp.20 and 21.

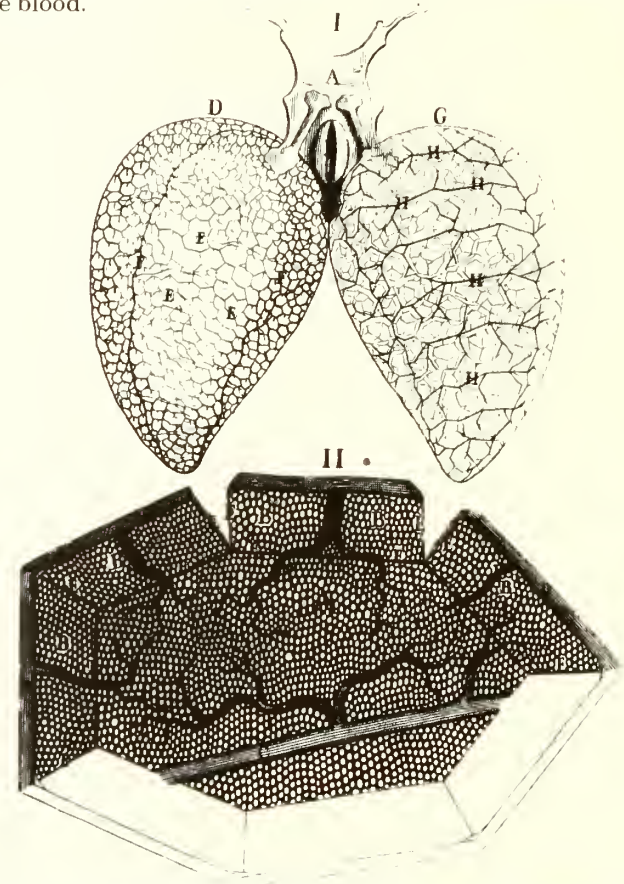
Harvey's experiments to show that the valves in the veins allow the blood to flow in one direction only, towards the heart, enabled him to demonstrate the circulation of the blood.

8. Gasparo Aselli [1581-1626]. **De lactibus sive lacteis venis.**
 Milan: G.B. Bidelli. 1627.
 WIHM 6837. Tabula prima.

This work by Aselli, setting out his discovery of the lacteal vessels, is remarkable for its woodcut illustrations, the first example of colour-printing, rather than hand-colouring, used in an anatomical work.

9. Marcello Malpighi [1628-94]. **De pulmonibus observationes anatomicae.** Bologna: G.B. Ferroni. 1661.
 MSL Purchase. Plate to 'Epistola altera'.

The only copy in Great Britain of the first edition of Malpighi's observations on the lungs, in which, by using a microscope, he demonstrated the existence of the capillaries, an important sequel to Harvey's discovery of the circulation of the blood.



18. Marcello Malpighi. **De pulmonibus observationes anatomicae.** 1661. Plate to 'Epistola altera'. The earliest depiction of the capillaries. Case 6.9.

Laennec, René-Théophile-Hyacinthe [1781-1826]. **De l'auscultation médiate**. Paris: J.A. Brosson & J.S. Chaudé. 1816. WIHM/Spec. Coll. Plate 1.

The first stethoscope was a simple tube of paper which (in 1816) Laennec applied to the chest of a patient, thereby discovering that it amplified sound. When he published his treatise three years later, he had not only developed the wooden model illustrated, but had also established the nomenclature of auscultation, enabling respiratory and cardiac diseases to be diagnosed through sound.

11. Richard Bright [1789-1858]. **Reports of medical cases**. Vol. 1. London: Longman. 1827. WIHM/Spec. Coll. Plate 1 and p.9.

Bright was physician to Guy's Hospital for many years. His **Reports**, published in three volumes, 1827-31, contain important researches on kidney disease, including 'Bright's Disease'. The illustrations were made under Bright's close supervision.

12. Marie Skłodowska Curie, [1867-1934]. **Traité de radio-activité**. Paris: Gauthier-Villars. 1910. Vol. 1. Title-page.

In 1898, Pierre Curie (1859-1906) and his Polish expatriate wife isolated from pitchblende a highly radioactive substance which they called radium. In 1903, they shared the Nobel Prize for physics with Henri Becquerel [1852-1908], the discoverer of radioactivity. Marie continued her research after Pierre's death, and was awarded the Nobel Prize for chemistry in 1911. The Curies' work, along with the discovery of X-rays by Wilhelm Roentgen [1845-1923], opened up the whole new field of radiotherapy.

13. Sir Alexander Fleming [1881-1955]. 'On the antibacterial action of cultures of a *Penicillium*, with special reference to their use in the isolation of *B. influenzae*.' **British journal of experimental pathology**, 10 (1929). Pp.226-236. [Reprint. 1944.]

This article contains Fleming's observation that the mould *Penicillium* has a growth-inhibiting action on certain bacteria. It did not immediately lead to any therapeutic advance, because of the difficulty of preparing extracts of

sufficient purity and stability. The problem was re-examined in 1939 and eventually overcome by a team of chemists headed by Sir Howard Florey [1898-1968]. In 1945, the Nobel Prize for medicine was awarded jointly to Fleming, Florey and Sir Ernst Chain (see Case 5).

Of the original offprint of 1929, 150 copies are believed to have been issued. As they became unobtainable, Fleming had a reprint made in 1944 of 250 copies, differently set up and paginated 1 to 12. This copy belongs to this second set of offprints.



20. Richard Bright. **Reports of clinical cases**. 1827. Plate 1 shows the kidney of a sufferer from 'Bright's disease'. Case 6.11.

Case 7 PRINTED BOOKS: PRIMARY SOURCES II

The emphasis in this case is on practical medicine and surgery and on popular medicine. Selected items from the Library's collections of printed ephemera are also included.

1. John Browne [1642-1700]. **Adenochoiradelogia: or, an anatomick-chirurgical treatise of . . . Kings-Evil-swellings. Together with the royal gift of healing.** London: T. Newcomb for S. Lowndes. 1684. WIHM/Spec. Coll. (Bindings). Frontispiece.

The royal tradition of touching for the King's Evil, scrofula, assumed particular importance for the Stuarts because of its association with the divine right of Kings. John Browne, surgeon in ordinary to Charles II and surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital, recorded that between 1660 and 1683 Charles II touched 92,107 sufferers. The frontispiece to Browne's treatise shows the ceremony taking place in the Banqueting House and the King stroking the faces of the sick with both his hands at once.

This copy is bound in contemporary red turkey with gold tooling in a typical Restoration pattern with prominent use of drawer handle tools. From the library of J.F. Payne.

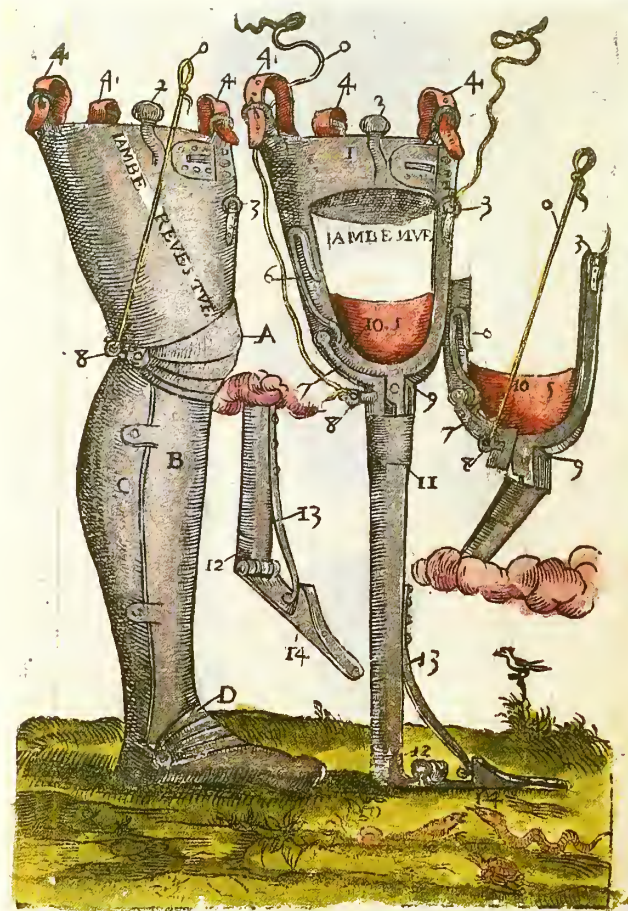
2. Nicholas Culpeper [1616-54]. **The English physitian.** London: P. Cole. 1652. WIHM/19318/C/1. Frontispiece and title-page.

The first edition of the immensely popular **Herbal**, which has made Culpeper a household name. A zealous translator and popularizer, Culpeper studied at Cambridge but never gained a medical degree and always described himself as 'Student in Physick and Astrologie'; Culpeper was antagonistic to the medical establishment and named his masters in the list of authorities to this work as Dr. Reason and Dr. Experience.

3. Wiliam Buchan [1729-1805]. **Domestic medicine; or, the family physician.** Edinburgh: Balfour, Auld & Smellie. 1769. WIHM/15900/B. Pp. xiv-xv.

A Scot who trained and practised in Edinburgh, Buchan, assisted by his printer William Smellie, published this health

guide with the aim of 'laying Medicine more open to mankind'. The combination of sensible advice on general regimen and hygiene with descriptions of, and treatments for, specific diseases and a special concern with children, made this the most popular work of its kind, with over 140 editions in English and translations into most European languages.



21. Hand-coloured woodcuts taken from Ambroise Paré. **Instrumenta chyrgurgiae et icones anatomicae.** 1564. Fol. e6r. Case 7.5.

 Paré [1517-90]. **The workes . . . translated out of French into English, and compared with the French by Th. Johnson.** London: T. Cotes & R. Young. 1634. WIHM 4825. Pp. 408-9.

Ambroise Paré's writings are the work of a practical surgeon rather than an academic scholar and contain graphic descriptions of surgical cases. The passage displayed here describes Paré's discovery, after the battle of Avigliana, near Turin, in 1536, that gunshot wounds were not poisonous and did not require cauterisation.

This English translation is the work of the botanist and apothecary Thomas Johnson, who died in 1644 of wounds received while fighting on the Royalist side at Basing House.

5. Ambroise Paré [1517-90]. **Instrumenta chyrgurgiae et icones anatomicae.** [Paris. 1564?] WIHM 4818. Fol. e6r.

A collection of hand-coloured woodcuts, mostly from Paré's **Dix livres de chirurgie** of 1564. Inscribed, and presumably assembled, by Nicolas Rasse Des Neux [d. 1581], surgeon to the French king.

6. Gasparo Tagliacozzi [1546-99] **De curtorum chirurgia per insitionem.** Venice: G. Bindoni. 1597. WIHM 6210. Icon octava.

Tagliacozzi, professor at Bologna, carried out a number of successful skin-grafting operations. The illustration here shows the replacement of a lost nose with skin from the arm. After Tagliacozzi's death, interest in the technique lapsed and was not revived until the early 19th century.

7. **Ortus sanitatis.** Mainz: J. Meydenbach. 1491. WIHM 4895 (Poynter 308). Fols. ff5v-6r.

Herbals were for many years a repository of popular medical and botanical information. The Mainz **Ortus sanitatis** of 1491 is a particularly striking example of the genre. As well as herbs, it contains sections on animals, birds, fishes, and stones. The properties of many substances are illustrated by scenes from daily life. One of the chapters displayed deals with bezoar, an animal concretion believed to be a specific against poison.

8. **Der teutsche Kalender.** [Augsburg: J. Blaubiren. c.1483.] WIHM 3529 (Poynter 338). Fols. c4v-5r.

A German calendar with woodcut illustrations including labours of the months, medical scenes and a zodiacal man. Astrology and its medical application were for many centuries an important part of popular culture.

9. Florence Nightingale [1820-1910]. **Notes on nursing: what it is, and what it is not.** London: Harrison. [1860]. Title-page.

Florence Nightingale's arrival with a band of trained nurses at the barrack hospital at Scutari during the Crimean War (1854) heralded a revolution in the standards of sick care and the sanitary conditions of the hospital. Within six months, the death rate had been reduced from 42% to 2%. Her **Notes on hospitals** (1859) and **Notes on nursing** are regarded as medical classics. This copy bears her presentation inscription to a Miss Carpenter.

10. Ignaz Philipp Semmelweis [1818-65]. **Die Aetiologie, der Begriff und die Prophylaxis des Kindbettfiebers.** Pest, Vienna and Leipzig: Hartleben. 1861. MSL Purchase. Title-page.

Semmelweis was a pioneer of asepsis in obstetrics and recognised puerperal fever as a form of septicaemia. At the time, his ideas met with fierce opposition. This copy of his treatise was formerly in the library of the Medical Society of London and bears the signature of the Hungarian physician Lajos Markusovszky. It may have reached the Medical Society through Joseph Lister.

Ephemera.

A selection from the Wellcome Institute's ephemera collection, which includes posters, broadsides, handbills, trade cards, and labels covering a range of medical and non-medical subjects.

Bookplates. 18th to 20th century.

English, French and German medical bookplates.

made Plain and Easy.

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CHAP. X.

Directions for the SICK.

I don't pretend to meddle here in the Physical Way; but a few Directions for the Cook or Nurse, I presume will not be improper to make such Diet, &c. as the DOCTOR shall order.

To make Mutton Broth.

TAKE a Pound of a Loin of Mutton, take off the Fat, put to it one Quart of Water, let it boil and skim it well, then put in a good Piece of Upper-crust of Bread, and one large Blade of Mace. Cover it close, and let it boil slowly an Hour; don't stir it, but pour the Broth clear off. Season it with a little Salt, and the Mutton will be fit to eat. If you boil Turnips, don't boil them in the Broth, but by themselves in another Sauce-pan.

To boil a Scrag of Veal.

SET on the Scrag in a clean Sauce-pan: To each Pound of Veal put a Quart of Water, skim it very clean, then put in a good Piece of Upper-crust, a Blade of Mace to each Pound, and a little Parsley tyed with a Thread. Cover it close, then let it boil very softly two Hours, and both Broth and Meat will be fit to eat.

To make Beef or Mutton Broth for very weak People, who take but little Nourishment.

TAKE a Pound of Beef, or Mutton, or both together: To a Pound put two Quarts of Water, first skim the Meat, and take off all the Fat; then cut it into little Pieces, and boil it till it comes to a Quarter of a Pint. Season it with a very little Corn of Salt, skim off all the Fat, and give a Spoonful of this Broth at a Time. To very weak People Half a Spoonful is enough. To some a Tea Spoonful at a Time; and to others a Tea Cup full. There is greater Nourishment from this than any Thing else.

To

This case demonstrates the range of the Library's coverage, which extends beyond medicine through the sciences into such tangential subjects as travel and cookery.

1. Travel

Jan Huygen van Linschoten [1563-1633]. *Navigatio ac itinerarium ... in Orientalem sive Lusitanorum Indiam*. Amsterdam: J. Walschaert. 1614. WIHM 3813. Plate preceding p.65.

Travel books are often of value for their descriptions of the natural history and diseases of the countries visited. This account by Linschoten of his travels in the Far East includes an early illustration of elephantiasis as seen in the natives of Malabar. A contemporary legend described this disease as a curse on the descendants of those responsible for the martyrdom of St. Thomas, and the disease was for some time known as St. Thomas' leg.

2. Cookery

Hannah Glasse. *The art of cookery, made plain and easy. By a lady*. 3rd ed. London: The author, etc. 1748. WIHM/24733/B/1. Pp. 232-3.

Household and cookery books are an important source for the history of popular medicine since they usually included a substantial number of medical receipts. Mrs. Glasse, in her best-selling book first published in 1747, broke with this tradition to some extent. She did, however, include a section on invalid cookery and this edition has cures 'for the bite of a mad dog', a 'receipt against the plague', and advice on 'how to keep clear from bugs'.

3. Physics

Sir Isaac Newton [1642-1727]. *Philosophiae naturalis principia mathematica*. London: J. Streater for the Royal Society. 1687. WIHM/Spec. Coll. Title-page.

Newton's *Principia*, which showed for the first time that nature could be understood in mathematical terms, was published for the Royal Society at the instigation and expense

22. How to cook for the sick, according to Hannah Glasse, *The art of cookery*. 1748. P.233. Case 8.2.

Isaac Barrow [1630-1677]. **De geometriae naturalis** [1665-1670]. The **Principia** inspired a 'method of astromathematics' in which physicians tried to apply Newton's mathematical method to an understanding of the human body in the hope of improving medical science.

4. Sir Isaac Newton [1642-1727]. **Funeral invitation**. [Engraved border, MS. text].

This invitation was addressed to Alexander Pitfeild, Treasurer of the Royal Society throughout Newton's Presidency (1703-27). Newton died on 20 March 1727, and was buried in the nave of Westminster Abbey eight days later.

5. Biology

Carolus Linnaeus [1707-78]. **Systema naturae**. 2nd ed. Stockholm: G. Kiesewetter. 1740. MSL Purchase. Pp. 34-5.

The second edition of Linnaeus' fundamental system of classification for the animal, vegetable, and mineral kingdoms, establishing a consistent binomial system. The work was first published in 1735.

6. Chemistry

Hieronymus von Brunschwig [1450-1512]. **The vertuose boke of distyllacyon of the waters of all maner of herbes . . . translate into Englysshe** [by Laurence Andrewe]. London: [P. Treveris for] L. Andrewe. '1427' [i.e. 1528?]. MSL Purchase. Fols. a5v-6r.

Two distinct editions of this translation of Brunschwig's **Liber de arte distillandi** were printed, dated 18 April 1527 and 17 April '1427'. The latter is generally considered to be an error for 1528. This copy (which is incomplete) is of the second edition. The only other recorded copy is in the British Library (formerly the British Museum Library), from which the present copy was discarded as a duplicate in 1788.

The work contains much information of relevance to medicine and is profusely illustrated with woodcuts of plants and apparatus.

7. Microscopy

Robert Hooke [1635-1703]. **Micrographia: or some**

physiological descriptions of minute bodies made by magnifying glasses. London: J. Martyn & J. Allestry. 1665. WIHM/Spec. Coll. Plate 34, facing p.210.

The potential of the microscope as a tool rather than a toy was slow in being recognised. It was this book, the exactness of Hooke's descriptions and, above all, the size and detail of the plates which first demonstrated what the microscope could achieve. A Fellow and Secretary of the Royal Society, Robert Hooke had wide scientific interests. He began his researches into microscopy with Christopher Wren and, like Wren, worked as an architect after the Fire of London, when he held the post of City Surveyor.

8. Alchemy

Elias Ashmole [1617-92]. **Theatrum chemicum Britannicum**. London: J. Grismond for N. Brooke. 1652. WIHM/11380/B/1. Pp. 102-3.

Ashmole's annotated collection of medieval and later English alchemical verse contains the first printing of several important texts, including Thomas Norton's **Ordinall of alchemie**, shown here. The engravings are after originals in the medieval manuscript, apparently the first such facsimiles to be published in England. This copy was presented by Ashmole to Zachary Babington.

9. Botany

Leonhard Fuchs [1501-66]. **De historia stirpium commentarii insignes**. Basle: Officina Isingriniana. 1542. WIHM 2438. Pp. 732-3.

Fuchs, professor of medicine at Tübingen, incorporated into his herbal newly-discovered plants from countries outside Europe, such as India and America; the genus fuchsia, native to tropical America, is named after him. Fuchs' herbal is remarkable for its magnificent naturalistic woodcuts, hand-coloured in this copy.

10. Nutrition

Sir Hugh Platt [1552-1608]. **Certaine philosophical preparations of foode and beverage for sea-men, in their long voyages**. [London: H. Lownes. c.1607.] WIHM 5098.

Sir Hugh Platt, man of letters, scientist, inventor, and writer of cookery books, was consulted in 1595 by Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Hawkins before their voyage to the West Indies. This broadsheet setting out his advice was printed about twelve years later. Macaroni is recommended as 'a cheape, fresh and lasting victuall'. Platt recommends his 'philosophical fire' (probably some form of bottling process) for the preservation of liquids, including lemon juice, already recognised as effective against scurvy.

The only other recorded copy of this sheet is in the Library of the University of California, Los Angeles.

11. Veterinary Medicine

Charles Benoît Vial de Sainbel [1750?-93]. **Lectures on the elements of farriery**. London: The author. 1793. WIHM/RBS/VIAL. Frontispiece and title-page.

Charles Benoît Vial, trained in France as a veterinary surgeon, settled in England in 1788, adopting the name of Vial de Saint Bel or Sainbel. He acquired some celebrity in 1789 by his dissection of the famous racehorse Eclipse and became involved in the movement for the improvement of veterinary education in England. On the foundation of the Veterinary College (now the Royal Veterinary College) in 1791, he was appointed its first professor but his period of office was cut short by his death from glanders in 1793.

The allegorical frontispiece to this volume of lectures, drawn by Richard Lawrence [fl. 1792-1818], one of the first pupils at the College and later a distinguished veterinary surgeon and artist, shows Sainbel, the educated veterinarian, instructing a farrier while Ignorance is put to flight.

12. Veterinary Medicine

Veterinary fugitive sheet. **Tutte le infermita che possano venire al cavallo con li soi rimedii**. Florence: A. Gatti. 1594. WIHM 7219.

Similar illustrations of the horse with numbered seats of diseases are found in several 16th-century and later Italian books on horsemanship. There is also sometimes a companion-piece on diseases of the ox. This text derives from the medieval author Lorenzo Rusio [fl. 1340]. Separate publications in broadsheet form are rare but there was evidently a continuous tradition from the mid-16th century to

the early 19th. In this example the illustration and the text seem to be derived from different versions, as the order of the key numbers does not correspond.

13. Biology

Charles Darwin [1809-82]. **On the origin of species by means of natural selection, or the preservation of favoured races in the struggle for life**. London: J. Murray. 1859. Title-page.

Darwin's exposition of the theory of evolution based on the survival of the fittest by natural selection had a fundamental influence on modern biology. The first printing of 1250 copies, of which this is one, was sold on the day of publication. Darwin developed his ideas in later works such as: **The variation of animals and plants under domestication** (1868) and **The descent of man** (1871).

14. Chemistry

Louis Pasteur (1822-95). **Etudes sur le vin: ses maladies, causes qui les provoquent, procédés nouveaux pour le conserver et pour le vieillir**. Paris: Imprimerie impériale. 1866. Front wrapper.

Pasteur's discoveries about the nature of fermentation led him to study the causes detrimental to three important French industries: wine, silk and wool. He was able to show the wine industry that the souring of wine by microorganisms can be prevented by partial heat sterilization, at a temperature of 55°-60° C., without altering the taste or bouquet. This process of 'pasteurization', which he later applied also to beer and to milk, was a major step toward food purification, and was particularly important for the control of tuberculosis.

SECONDARY BOOKS: SECONDARY SOURCES

In addition to its rich holdings of primary sources, the Library contains a comprehensive collection of works on the history of medicine and science published after 1850. It includes biographies, general and medical reference books, as well as historical studies and journals in a variety of languages. Its growth mirrors that of medical history as an academic and medical interest both in scale – approximately 100 books a month are now bought – and in emphasis – recent acquisitions include more statistical surveys and facsimile reprints of early texts, not to mention books on sex, witchcraft and demography. The library currently acquires about 435 journals in the history of medicine and science, from Finland to Japan.

Except for a small number of books for the use of University College students, the secondary source collection is for reference only. It is housed mainly on the open shelves of the Reading Room and the Periodicals Room where it can be easily consulted by readers, whether they are preparing a sixth-form essay on the history of anaesthesia or a learned monograph on madness in the Middle Ages. There they can find guidance and information in the writings of previous distinguished historians of medicine, many of whom worked in the Library, like Max Neuburger [1868-1955], Charles Singer [1876-1960] and Walter Pagel [1898-1983].

In the case is displayed a representative selection of modern works.

1. Nellie Eales [b. 1889]. **The Cole Library of early medicine and zoology.** Reading: Reading University Library. 1969. Title-page.
2. William Macmichael [1784-1879]. **The gold-headed cane.** London: Royal College of Physicians. 1968. Title-page.
3. J.D.A. Gray. **The Central Middlesex Hospital.** London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. 1963. Plates, pp.8-9.
4. Alan Moorehead [b. 1910]. **Darwin and the Beagle.** London: Hamish Hamilton. 1969. P.148.
5. Galen [129-c.200]. **De praecognitione.** Edited, translated and annotated by Vivian Nutton. Berlin: Akademie Verlag. 1979.
6. F.N.L. Poynter [1908-79] and Kenneth D. Keele [b. 1909]. **A short history of medicine.** London: Mills and Boon. 1961.
7. Guido Majno [b.1922]. **The healing hand.** Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press. 1975. Pp.250-251.
8. Leonardo da Vinci [1452-1519]. **The corpus of the anatomical studies ... at Windsor Castle.** London: Johnson Reprint Co. 1978-80. Plates 130-133r, 198.
9. Walter Bailey [1529-1592]. **A short discourse of the three kinds of peppers in common use.** [London: s.n.] 1588. Facsimile reprint. Amsterdam: Theatrum Orbis Terrarum. 1972.
10. Walter Pagel [1898-1983]. Pathologist and historian, especially of 16th- and 17th-century medicine and science.
11. Max Neuburger [1868-1955]. Professor of the History of Medicine in Vienna from 1917 until 1934 and a member of the scientific staff of the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum from 1939 to 1948.
12. Charles Singer [1876-1960]. Honorary professor of the history of medicine at University College London from 1930 until 1942. Many of his works on the history of medicine and science were published by the Wellcome Museum.



23. The **Indian book of the horse** in a Persian translation by the veterinary surgeon to Shah Jahān. Fol. 7r. Case 10.5.

The Wellcome collection of oriental manuscripts and printed books is one of the largest and most important of its kind in the world, comprising some 11,000 manuscripts and 3,000 printed books in 43 different languages. Medicine and science are central, but few areas of human endeavour are unrepresented. Diversity of content is matched by diversity of materials, including metal, bamboo, bone, ivory and palm leaves. Its range in space and time is enormous: from ancient Egyptian papyri of the 6th century B.C. to the modern printed book, and, as the map above Case 10 shows, manuscripts come from all over Asia and North Africa.

The major part of the Oriental collection was put together between 1911 and 1921 by Dr. Paira Mall. Trained as a physician in Munich, he had a wide knowledge of European languages as well as of Sanskrit, Persian, Arabic, and modern Indian languages. He had been chief medical adviser to the Maharajah of Kapurthala in the Punjab, and from his base at Amritsar he travelled on Wellcome's behalf all over North India. He not only purchased original manuscripts but also commissioned copies of important and rare manuscripts belonging to Indian and Nepalese libraries. These copies are often of great scholarly value, not only because of the rarity of the works copied but because in some cases the originals have seriously deteriorated in the last seventy years. The efforts of Paira Mall resulted in one of the largest collections of South Asian manuscripts outside India.

The Arabic collection, already of international importance, was further enhanced in November 1985, by the purchase, through Sotheby's, of 95 medical manuscripts formerly owned by Dr. Sami I. Haddad [1890-1957], professor of surgery at the American University of Beirut. This acquisition further strengthened the Institute's pre-eminent position among collections of Arabic medical manuscripts.

The great diversity of the Oriental collection requires many scholars with different linguistic expertises to describe and catalogue it. Great strides have been made, especially over the last decade; and, although much is still to be done, substantial sections have been described and made available to scholars from all over the world (see pp.68-9 below).

Case 10 Abū 'Alī al-Husayn b. 'Abd-Allāh ibn Sinā [980-1037]. *al-Qānūn fī al-ṭibb*.

The work of a philosopher and physician from Bukhara (now Uzbekistan), the **Canon of medicine** of Ibn Sinā (Avicenna) is a clear and ordered summary of all medical knowledge, and it formed the basis of academic medical teaching in both the East and Europe until at least the sixteenth century. It is represented here by a manuscript and a printed edition.

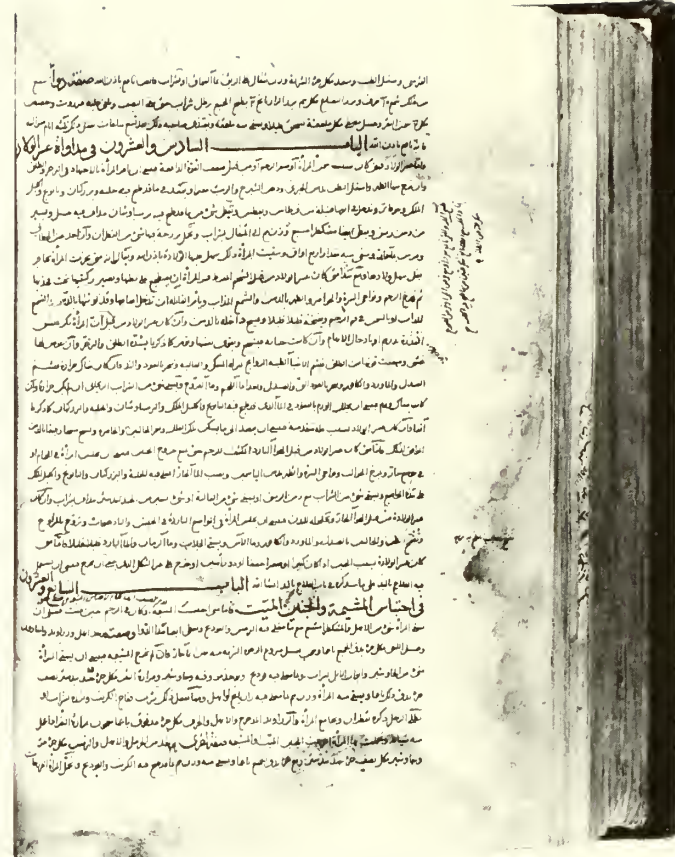
1. WMS Or. 155. Fols. 218-9.

Copied in 1632 in Isfahān (Iran) by Ni'mat-Allāh in **Ta'liq** script. The section displayed is the opening of Book III, a discussion of diseases of the body, beginning with the brain and ending with the toenails. Purchased in Cairo, 1932.

2. Rome: Typographia Medicea. 1593.

MSL purchase. Title-page.

The first printed Arabic edition. The Institute also holds a copy of the first printing of the **Canon**, Naples: 1491, in a Hebrew version.



24. Al-Majūsī. **Medical compendium**. Fol. 155r. An Arabic manuscript written between 1434 and 1437. Case 10.4.

3. Abū 'Alī Yahyā b. 'Isā b. 'Alī ibn Jazla al-Baghdādī [d. 1100]. *Taqwīm al-abbān fī tadbīr al-insān*.

Haddad Purchase 475. Fols. 1v-2r.

The **Treatment by regimen** by Ibn Jazla, a Christian convert to Islam, describes 352 maladies and their treatment. It was a very popular textbook both in the East and, as the **Tacuinum aegritudinum**, in the West during the Middle Ages. Copied in 1585.

4. 'Alī b. al-'Abbās al-Majūsī [fl. 970]. **Kāmil al-ṣinā'a al-ṭibbiyah.**

Haddad Purchase 466. Fols. 154v-155r.

This **Medical compendium** was dedicated to 'Adud al-Dawla, the ruler of Iran from 949 to 982, hence its alternative title **Kitāb al-Malakī**, the royal book or, in its medieval Latin version, **Liber regius**. It was recognised as a masterpiece of practical medical wisdom and was not entirely superseded by Avicenna's **Canon**. The opening displayed shows the contents of Book V, which deals with the effects of environment on health.

Arabic manuscript copied in small **Naskh** script between 1434 and 1437.

5. **Faras-nāma-yi-Hindī.**

Persian MS. 47A. Fols. 6v-7r.

A Persian translation of the **Indian book of the horse**, describing the different breeds of horse and their illnesses. The book was originally written in Sanskrit, and a Hindi version is displayed in Case 11.

This manuscript was copied in **Nasta'liq** script no later than 1641 and contains the autograph of the Persian translator, 'Abd Allāh Khān Bahādur Firūzjang, veterinary surgeon to Shah Jahān [1627-57], the famous Mughal emperor of Delhi. Purchased at Sotheby's, 1928.

6. **Ruznamē-i Dāirevī.**

Turkish MS. 388.

Ottoman astronomical calendar giving tables for both the Arabic and Julian calendars, and times of sunrise and sunset. An agricultural almanac is transcribed in the margin, specifying tasks to be done and the appropriate weather, as well as dates of religious festivals.

Copied in 1812 by Ketebe Muḥammed Shemseddīn in **Riqā'** script.

7. **Sefer sōd adonai (Book of the secret of God).**

Hebrew MS. A4. Fols. 7v-8r.

A Hebrew manual of circumcision according to the Ashkenazi rite of Poland and Lithuania with prayers attributed to David b. Aryeh (d. c.1698), a Polish Rabbi in Amsterdam.

Copied by Dob Bahel Mordecai Katz in 1687.

8. **Prayers**

Ethiopian MS. 8.

An Ethiopian manuscript, on four pieces of vellum, containing magical prescriptions and prayers against diseases and the effects of charms and demons.

Copied in the 19th century, and probably brought back from Ethiopia by British troops returning from the campaign in 1867-8 against Emperor Theodore [1818-68].

Purchased in London, 1924.



25. **Book of the secret of God.** A Hebrew manual of circumcision. 1687. Fol. 8r. Case 10.8.



26. **The perfection of wisdom, in 8000 verses.** A palm leaf manuscript of a book of Buddhist metaphysics. Fols. 101v-102r. Case 11.5.

Case 11 1. **Pañcarakṣā (The five protections).**

Sanskrit MS. Delta 33. Fols. 59r. 97r.

A Nepalese Buddhist work containing hymns and charms to ward off various illnesses and snakebite.

Copied in 1635, during the reign of Pratāpamalla. Bought in London in 1924-5.

2. **Aśvacikitsā.**

Hindi MS. Beta 10. Fols. 84v-85r.

An abridged Hindi version of a famous Sanskrit work on farriery (see also Case 10). This manuscript, copied in the 18th century, has 220 miniatures illustrating the different breeds of horse, their care, livery and medication. The miniature displayed shows the four classes of horse, which mirror the division of Hindu society into castes.

3. Bhadrabāhu, **Kalpasūtra.**

Sanskrit MS. Gamma 3. Fols. 101v, 135r.

The **Kalpasūtra**, is the monastic rule of the Jaina religion, and describes the lives of its saints. The Institute holds many early Jaina copies of works in Sanskrit and Prakrit, including a unique manuscript of the *Ganitapañcaviṃśī*, an eighth-century Sanskrit treatise on mathematics. Many of the Jaina manuscripts are beautifully illustrated, as is this one.

Copied in 1503. Bought in London in 1924 for £8.

4-6. **Palm-leaf manuscripts**

The palm-leaf manuscript was the standard form of book in South and South East Asia. The palm leaf is cut to size, then soaked and boiled, before being dried and smoothed with a cowrie shell or stone. A metal stylus is used to cut the script into the leaf, and lampblack is then rubbed across the surface of the leaf and into the incision to make the writing legible. The individual leaves are secured between two wooden boards by a cord running through them and then bound round the whole bundle.

Two examples from the Wellcome collection of over a thousand such manuscripts are here displayed.

4. Metal stylus used to incise the script on palm leaves.

5. **Aṣṭasāhasrikāprajñāpāramitāsūtra (The perfection of wisdom, in 8000 verses).**

Sanskrit MS. Epsilon 1. Fols. 101v-102r.

Composed in South India about 150 A.D., this book of Buddhist metaphysics puts forward the cheerless view that the most perfect wisdom is to understand that all is ultimately void. This, the oldest manuscript in the Wellcome Sanskrit collection, is in pristine condition, since it was worshipped, not read. Its leaves have hardly ever been turned, but its covers are thickly smeared with the holy sandal-paste used in Buddhist ceremonials.

Copied c.1075 in North East India under King Vīgrahapāla, its 18 miniatures of the life of the Buddha are among the earliest examples of Indian miniature painting. Here are displayed: Upper leaf: Buddha taming an enraged elephant; in Śrāvastī; visiting the 'heaven of the thirty-three gods'. Lower leaf: Buddha's birth from his mother's side; his temptation during meditation; his first sermon. Bought by Paira Mall in Bihar in 1919-20.

6. Yogadhāraṇaya (The repository of medicines).

Sinhalese MS. 73.

Medical prescriptions written in verse; the covers are painted in red lacquer with a floral scroll and diamond motifs.

Sri Lanka. 19th cent. A fan of folios is shown.

Acquired by Capt. Johnston-Saint in 1934.



27. A letter on yellow paper to the Dowager Empress of China. Case 11.9.

7. Amulet against bullets.

Batak MS. 331834.

This Karo-Batak MS from Indonesia is written on bone, with a text on one side and magical drawings on the other .

2nd half of 19th cent.

8. Tibetan devotional text.

Tibetan MS. 127. Fols. 1v-2r.

The miniatures in this 18th-century manuscript depict, on the right, the mythical hero Padmasambhava, who introduced Buddhism to Tibet, dressed as a monk; and, below, with his consort. To the left are shown, top, in blue, Vajrapani, the bearer of the thunderbolt, and, below, Vairocana, the deity of strength and steadfastness. Formerly owned by Lt. Col. L.A. Waddell [1854-1938], chief medical officer to the Younghusband expedition to Tibet in 1904 and later professor of Tibetan at University College London.

9. Letter of the Governor of Kiangsu enquiring after the health of Tzu-hsi, Dowager Empress of China [d. 1908].

Chinese MS. 21126.

The yellow paper and silk forming the notepaper and envelope were used only by members of the Chinese Imperial family or by high officials communicating with them. They are for that reason rare, and in China were held in such respect that even their bearers commanded the veneration of the people as they passed by.

Probably removed from Peking during the looting of the Imperial Palace after the Boxer Rising of 1900.

10. Osip Kirillovich Kamenetskii [1754-1823]. Axarxan surgāli ebūciten küūgi. . . (Easy instructions. The treatment of the sick by simple means. . .). St. Petersburg. [1823.]

WHM/RBS/Suppl. Seq.

Originally published in Russian in 1811, this medical handbook of elementary medical care for use in the Russian countryside was translated into several languages. This Kalmuck version was made for the use of the Kalmuck inhabitants of Central Asiatic Russia, and is a very rare example of printing in this Central Asian language; the script reads vertically from left to right.

Purchased in 1932.

In different areas of the Islamic world in which the Arabic script was used, from Spain to Indonesia, as well as the variety of literature it recorded, gave rise to many fine styles of writing, a few examples of which are displayed from the Institute's collection.

Kūfī

The **Kūfī** style flourished from the 6th until the middle of the 10th century. It was reserved for copies of the Koran, works of erudition, and pious texts.

Naskh

This style developed from **Kūfī**, and lasted until the 19th century. The fine verticals of the letters make it particularly beautiful.

Ta'liq

This script, whose name means 'suspension' or 'hanging together', because its letters were joined, was used for writing books, letters and official correspondence. It assumed its definitive form by the 13th century, but gradually declined in use after 1400. The example displayed shows characteristics of the **Nasta'liq** style.

Nasta'liq

This style was formed by joining **Naskh** and **Ta'liq**, and was used from the 13th century on.

Rayḥanī

This script was used in Iran for copying Korans. It declined in popularity after the 17th century. An example in Arabic is shown.

Riqā'

This style became standard in Turkey for letters and correspondence of all types, and in Iran was also used for the final pages of Korans and learned books. A fine example in Arabic is shown.

Above Case 11 The Kanjur in Manchu translation

About 1411 a compendium of Buddhist texts, known as the **bKa'agjur** or **Kanjur**, was printed in Tibetan. It was translated into Chinese and later, between 1772 and 1790, into Manchu. The Manchu dynasty, which ruled China from 1644 to 1911, had little interest in Buddhism and based their empire on the precepts of Confucianism; and, until 1930, when two complete sets of the **Kanjur** were found in Jehol (Cheng-te, North China), no Manchu translation of these Buddhist texts was thought to exist. The Wellcome volume, which contains one of the 108 volumes of the **Kanjur**, is the only copy known to exist in the West and is thus of great rarity. It was bought in London in 1932 for £5.00.

On display are the red lacquer outer cover, which bears the eight auspicious signs on the sole of Buddha's foot; the title-page, covered with patterned yellow silk, with the titles written in (from left to right) Manchu, Tibetan, Mongolian, and Chinese; and one of its 451 folios, printed in red ink with pagination in (left) Manchu and (right) Chinese.

Above Case 11 Anon. Thanka of the Medicine Buddha

Body colour on damask, 60 × 44cm. with red, yellow and blue borders, 122 × 83 cms. 18th cent.
Iconographic coll. inv. no. 8597.

Thankas are devotional paintings found in Tibetan monasteries. This example shows the Medicine Buddha sitting cross-legged on a lotus throne. He touches the earth with his right hand to call it to bear witness that the forces of evil have been overcome. His bowl is filled with the fruits of the myrobalan plant, considered to have medicinal properties. Below him is depicted Padmasambhava, who introduced Buddhism to Tibet, flanked by two disciples.

JOYFULL NEWES OUT OF

the newe founde worlde, wherein is

*declared the rare and singuler vertues of diuerse
and sundrie Hearbes, Trees, Oyles, Plantes, and Stones, with
their applications, as well for Physicke as Chirurgie, the said be-
yng well applied byngeth suche present remedie for
all diseases, as mate seme altogether incredible;*

notwithstanding by practise founde out,

to bee true: Also the portrature of

the said Hearbes, very apt-

ly described: Engli-

shed by John

Fram-

pton

Marchant.



Printed at London in

Powles Church-yard, by

Wiliam Norton.

Anno Domini,

1577.

28. Nicolas Monardes [1493-1588]. *Joyfull newes out of the newe
founde worlde ... Englished by John Frampton.* London:
W. Norton. 1577. WHM 7216. Title-page. Above Case 12.

Case 12 AMERICAN COLLECTIONS

As an American and a pharmacist, Sir Henry Wellcome was early drawn to collect literature on the therapeutically useful plants of the Americas. American drugs and spices had attracted the interest of the conquering European powers almost from Columbus' discovery of America in 1492. The English

colony of Jamestown was supported by exports of sassafras and tobacco, and Philip II of Spain sent his personal physician, Francisco Hernández [d. 1587], to report on the native herbs and drugs. Cinchona (for malaria), ipecacuanha (for amoebic dysentery), guaiacum (a presumed remedy against syphilis), and, in our own day, the Mexican yam (an ingredient in the Pill), to say nothing of the potato, tomato, maize, chile peppers, the sunflower, and the dahlia, have indeed brought, in the words of an Elizabethan translator in 1577, *Joyfull newes out of the newe founde worlde*.

In 1927 Wellcome bought the library of Dr. Nicolás León [1859-1929], sometime Director of the National Museum of Mexico and an historian and bibliographer of medicine. The collection was further strengthened in 1962 by the Wellcome Trustees' acquisition of the collection of Dr. Francisco Guerra [b. 1916]. As a result, the American holdings of the Institute form a highly significant collection of material for the medical history of the colonial Americas. It is particularly strong on Latin America, but it has many early books relating to or published in North America. Nor are the natives of America neglected, for there is much on Amerindian medicine, including a manuscript in Old Guaraní and another which lists words in Alaskan Eskimo. There is also an important group of treatises on the medical treatment of slaves in the Caribbean.

The Wellcome collections also point a contrast between the colonies of Spain and England. South of the Rio Grande, the Spanish set up institutions modelled on the highly formal organisation of their homeland. Although physicians, surgeons and apothecaries were at first few, by the middle of the 17th century a fully-fledged and elaborate body to examine and license physicians (the **Protomedicato**) had been set up in Mexico City, which was soon followed

the first medical journal in Spanish America. Significant medical treatises were published in New Spain from the early 17th century, and the first medical journal in the New World was printed there in 1772-73. By contrast, the colonies of North America lacked many metropolitan institutions such as hospitals and medical schools until the middle of the 18th century, and medical investigations focused more narrowly on local materia medica. Even George Washington had to order his medical supplies from London, and it was not until 1820 that the first **Pharmacopoeia of the United States of America** was born. But with Independence, medical institutions grew rapidly, and the researches of William Beaumont in 1833 mark the coming of age of American medical science.

1. Juan de Barrios [b. 1563]. **Verdadera medicina, cirugia, y astrologia.** Mexico: F. Balli. 1607.

M.9. Portrait and fol. A1r.

Cast in the form of a dialogue, Barrios' remarkable treatise is a lively account of most aspects of contemporary medicine. Unusually, he includes sections on childbirth, cosmetics and beauty, the necessity and means of supplying pure water to the City of Mexico, and the first printed version of Francisco Hernández's great work on the medicinal plants of New Spain.

2. **Mercurio Volante.** Mexico: F. de Zúñiga y Ontiveros. 1772-73.
Per. 14. Title-page.

This, the first medical journal printed in the Americas, began publication in October 1772 and continued for 16 numbers until printing costs forced its editor, José Ignacio Bartolache [1739-90] to cease publication. Bartolache, a typically energetic polymath of the Enlightenment, received his doctorate in medicine from the University of Mexico in 1772, held several temporary chairs during his lifetime and published a number of medical pamphlets.



29. Juan de Barrios. **Verdadera medicina, cirugia y astrologia.** 1607.
Portrait and fol. A1r. Case 12.1.

3. José Hipólito Unanue [1755-1833]. **Observaciones sobre el clima de Lima.** Lima: Imprenta Real de los Huérfanos. 1806.
P.29. Title-page.

Unanue, **Protomédico-General** (Chief Physician) of Peru, was among the first to welcome vaccination. His wide-ranging classic on environmental medicine, based on the Hippocratic **Airs, waters and places**, is remarkable for its clarity of language and observation. He discusses, among other things, the influence of climate on diseases of the body and mind, and the means of preventing them.

4. Junta Principal de Caridad, Mexico. **A circular letter, dated 11 April 1798, from Antonio de Basoco, Treasurer of the Junta Principal.**
M.124.

The letter returns apportioned amounts of remaining funds to the original contributors to the relief fund for victims of the

smallpox epidemic in Mexico City in 1797-98. The Junta Principal de Caridad, an **ad hoc** organisation, had set up community chests by voluntary (but politely enforced) contributions from richer citizens to the 181 local boards of charity. Not all taxation stories end as satisfactorily.

5. **Viceregal circular.** Buenos Aires: [Real Imprenta de los Niños expósitos]. 1780.
A.7.

The circular sets out the decision of the Viceroy of Río de la Plata (Argentina) to establish the **Protomedicato** (General Medical Council) and to appoint Miguel Gormán as its **Protomédico** (Chief Physician). Those practising as physicians, surgeons, blood-letters and apothecaries were to submit their qualifications to their local justices for forwarding to the **Protomedicato**; otherwise they would be forbidden to practise.

6. **Almanack da Corte do Rio de Janeiro para o anno de 1811.**
Rio de Janeiro: Impressão Regia. 1810.
B.1. Title-page.

This first almanack, or court calendar, issued after the arrival of the Regent in Brazil in 1808 includes, among much else, a full list of members of official bodies including the hospitals, the **Provedoria môr da saude** set up in 1809 in place of the **Protomedicato**, and the royal physicians and surgeons.

7. **The Pharmacopoeia of the United States of America, 1820.**
Boston: Wells & Lilly for Charles Ewer. 1820.
Austin 1500. Title-page.

This little work is the ancestor of the massive **United States Pharmacopoeia** of our own time. Begun semi-officially in 1817, it included the comments and advice of all medical societies, medical schools and faculties of medicine in the Union. The General Convention for the formation of the American Pharmacopoeia completed its deliberations in the Capitol in Washington, D.C., in January 1820. Indigenous items of materia medica considered useful by the profession were included. Some substitutions of American for European plants were made where their properties were regarded as the same.

8. Jacob Bigelow [1787-1879]. **American medical botany with coloured engravings**, 6 pts. Boston: Cummings & Hilliard.



30. Jacob Bigelow, **American medical botany with coloured engravings**. 1817. 'Panax quinquefolium' (ginseng). Case 12.8.

1817-21.
Austin 205. Vol. II, pt. 1, 'Panax quinquefolium' (ginseng).

The work represents, with its rather crude coloured engravings, a milestone both in American medical independence and in early American colour printing. The author opines that 'a great number of foreign drugs. . . for which we pay a large annual tax to other countries, might in all probability be superseded by the indigenous products of

...a view that was to gain more currency with the publication of the **United States Pharmacopoeia** in 1820.

9. William Beaumont [1785-1853]. **Experiments and observations on the gastric juice, and the physiology of digestion.** Plattsburgh: F.P. Allen. 1833. 12,786/B. Illustration, p.25.

Wounded by the accidental discharge of a musket in 1822, Alexis St. Martin, a Canadian half-breed, was left with a hole into his stomach. Young and vigorous, he provided good ground for Beaumont's investigations of digestion in the living body, a scientific enquiry which marks the coming of age of medicine in the United States.

Amome hecoribehaquetey rano, ayuda to te to igoru hece. Malvaricue
 juquimiri oquereto bae rehegua, Coterá aiporami Cañirivehegua.
 haē Caarurumotōi rehegua, haē vacuēhoce ey rano hegebe tomboyi
 manzi rīya. Coterá en el do. haē o e e y nūbi y vacuēhoce rano. mal
 va rehebe tomboyi. nūchi chu. haē hamombūi haquāmarī,
 teco. nūbi nūbi mboyequa haquāporā rehe. oyeroru Buro
 sa hupū ey bae. irequi haquārehe ocaē aiporami y yohi tāta
 haba oyeruabeno.
 Coni co mōhā y yuru rupi guā rano. tōpūi nabo rapocue, y yuru
 diacepua rubicharami. amambai min. haē lante sa pete rē a y e po.
 nabo. haē amambai toiqui. haē que rebo lante sa rehebe tomboyi ca
 tu y pipe mbohapi baso. tomboqua haē nūcū rehe. tomboyēca Caquīhai,
 t. rā mbohapi naracā hūi rēcū. haē azucar. Coterā y bira ey mbohā
 picucha. haē wūca chupe mbohapi yebī. Coērupi. haē Caaruramo,
 Coterā mōhā oipohano canupiri mbinuā rāci yepi, haē mbohā āyaya
 caurupi y poru y oapi rā rano; haē bene; =
 Mbinuā y pēu maramo y epe. ndoyecutū chene, y membiū bo
 ocuturire y yairaci hequī, tobeque hemimboarupi āpīru. haē re y piti
 bōmō tōpūi mbeque Cañā mōhā pīpe, y yai virevamarānō.
 Co mbinuā rāci pohānō rēcorami oico abenone mbinuā miri am
 ouarehe; Serapion cha Caray nē rupi,
 Fin de esta primera parte.
 Quana Ymomo coinda 14.
 r. tētirō ambuae pohānō haquā
 ma rehegua
 Hucibāē P. H.º Marcos Villodas.
 rembiporu rī quē aracāē
 Parte Segunda
 Del libro de los Remedios del
 H.º Marcos Villodas.
 &c.
 Libro seg.
 Libr.

31. A manuscript in old Guaraní. Fol. 35v. Case 12.10.

10. Marcos Villodas [d.1739]. **Pojha Ñaña. Materia Medica Misionera o Herbario de las Reducciones Guaranies.** Misiones Guaranies. c.1730. WMS Amer. 31. Fols. 35v-36r.

The manuscript describes in Old Guaraní the botanical remedies of the Amerindian peoples on the upper Paraná river (now in north-east Argentina). This is one of a related group of manuscripts on indigenous materia medica written (usually in Spanish) by members of the Jesuit Guaraní missions.

11. George Washington [1732-99]. **An order for household and plantation supplies.** [Mount Vernon, Virginia.] 1759. WMS Amer. 91.

This was one of a series of annual orders sent by Washington to London for general supplies. The order includes the tools necessary for a large estate, as well as such drugs as cantharides (Spanish fly), balsam of copaiba, diascordium, hartshorn, ipecacuanha, jalap, laudanum, tincture of myrrh, rhubarb and sal volatile. Ironically, copaiba, ipecacuanha and jalap, originating on the American continent, had to be re-shipped across the Atlantic.

12. Thomas Neville Ussher [d. 1885]. **Notebook, letter book, and diary.** Port-au-Prince, Haïti. 1841-56. WMS. Amer. 105. Fly-leaf.

As H.M. Consul to Haïti, Ussher was in a unique position to observe the ex-slave Republic in action. His notebook includes accounts of illnesses in man and animals, description of the earthquakes of 1842 and their aftermath, comments on political and economic conditions, and notes on the daguerreotype process. On the fly-leaf are a pen-drawing of a physician attending a Negro woman and sketches of three deformed children.

13. James Thomson. **A treatise on the diseases of negroes as they occur in the island of Jamaica with observations on the country remedies.** Kingston, Jamaica: A. Aikman, Jun. 1820. J.6. Pp.144-5.

This work, by an Edinburgh M.D., presents an unusually humane and closely-observed account of disease and its treatment among plantation slaves.



32. R. Pistoni. An offering to the 'Madonna del Parto'. Case 13.1.

Cases 13-14 ICONOGRAPHIC COLLECTIONS: PAINTINGS, PRINTS, PHOTOGRAPHS

The examples on display are intended to illustrate the media represented in the Collections; the sources of acquisition; and the results of research.

The literary records of medical history can be supplemented by the iconography, or pictorial record, of medicine in the past. Brought together from every continent, the Wellcome Iconographic Collections offer immense possibilities for future research and discovery.

Case 13

1. R. Pistoni [fl. 19th cent]. **Ex-voto offering to the 'Madonna del Parto'**. Oil painting on canvas 36 × 46 cm. Signed and dated 1872. Inscribed 'PGR' (**P**er **G**razia **R**icevuta 'For Grace Received').

Votive offerings are vowed to a saint or deity while the patient is ill and then commissioned and offered on recovery. Here the deity and the physician are acting in concert, for the ray which passes through the physician to the patient originates in the top right corner in the figure of the Virgin and Child. They are portrayed in the form of the **Madonna del Parto**, the statue made by Jacopo Sansovino for the church of Sant' Agostino, Rome, c.1518, and still revered as a cult-object today.

The painting was acquired from the church of Sant' Agostino, probably in the early years of this century, by E. Gorga, a Roman collector of archaeology, folk-art and musical instruments. Wellcome acquired it as part of the Gorga collection in 1924.

Published by W.M. Schubach, 'Un Ex-voto di R. Pistoni del 1872', **KOS** 1984, 1 (6), 15-17.

2. Vincent van Gogh [1853-90]. **L'homme à la pipe: portrait du docteur Gachet**. Soft-ground etching. 25 May 1890. Iconographic Coll. Portrait prints no. 1064-1.

In May 1890 the painter Vincent van Gogh came to Auvers-sur-Oise to relax after seventeen months of intermittent mental instability. There he found in Dr. Paul Ferdinand Gachet [1828-1909] a companion who made his family available as models and inspired him to experiment with the etching technique using Gachet's private press. Two months later, when van Gogh committed suicide, it was Dr. Gachet who attended his wounds and contacted his family.

L'homme à la pipe is van Gogh's only etching and was initially printed by Gachet and van Gogh together. Gachet's son, Paul, whom van Gogh had also painted, subsequently pulled a few prints from the etched plate and inscribed them; it was one of these latter prints which was probably bought from Paul Gachet in 1928.



33. Vincent van Gogh, *L'homme à la pipe: portrait du Docteur Gachet*. Case 13.2

3. Anon. (after a design by Temple West). **An address of thanks from the faculty to the Right Hon.ble Mr. Influenzy for his kind visit to this country.**

Coloured etching. 20 April 1803.
Iconographic Coll. no. PR 5586.

Caricatures, of which the Institute has a significant collection, illustrate the point that medical history does not exist in historical documents apart from political, social and cultural history. Here the London influenza epidemic of 1803 is portrayed as a Frenchman, a topical enemy of England. The nine figures to the right are physicians who offer their thanks to "Influenzy" for giving them the opportunity to publish their favoured remedies, which are all different and therefore competitive.

Discussed by R. Burgess, 'A satire on the influenza of 1803', **Medical History** 1979, **23**, 469-473.

4. Albrecht Dürer [1471-1528]. **The doctor's dream.**
Engraving. c.1500.
Accession no. 330775.

The title is traditional and the meaning of the print has not yet been convincingly identified: scholars have suggested that the sleeping figure dressed in the manner of a learned man is suffering from sloth, syphilis or gout.

Bought at auction in 1979, this impression was included in an exhibition of German prints at the Wellcome Institute in 1983.

5. Anon.

Marysville Drug Store and Eureka Daguerrean Gallery.
Daguerreotype. c.1850.

Like many daguerreotypes from the 1840s and 1850s taken by provincial photographers, the author of the Marysville view is not known. Nor has the identity of the town been established, despite initial efforts at contacting various American archives.

The image is intriguing because it raises the question whether the drug store and daguerrean gallery were operated as one business or whether they were separate enterprises. Normally the drug store, which relied on walk-in business, would have been on the lower floor; the daguerrean gallery would probably have been on the upper level, using roof windows to augment the available light and reduce the exposure time needed for portraiture. The photograph may well have been taken by one of the studio's operators as a form of advertisement for one or both of the businesses.



34. Interior views of the Great Northern Central Hospital. 1912.
Case 13.6.

6. Anon. **The Great Northern Central Hospital, London.**
Photograph album of twenty-seven albumen prints. August
1912.

Accession no. 346605. Pp. 24-25.

The Royal Northern (Central) Hospital, London, was founded
in 1856 by Dr. S.F. Statham to give medical care to the sick
poor of north London. Originally called the Great Northern
Hospital because of its proximity to the Great Northern

Station (King's Cross), it moved to its present site in Holloway
in 1888 and was re-named the Royal Northern Hospital in
1921.

Good-quality views of interiors of hospitals are rare and
views of areas other than wards rarer still. Hence the
importance of this album, which was bought at auction in
November 1985. The photographs exhibited show the
Outpatients Waiting Hall and the Dispensary.



35. Adam Elsheimer. **St. Elizabeth visiting the sick.** Case 14.

Case 14 Adam Elsheimer [1578-1610]. **St. Elizabeth visiting the sick.** Oil on copper, 27.6 × 20 cm. c.1598. Iconographic Coll. no. CC4876 = P.54/1941.

St. Elizabeth visiting the sick, by the Frankfurt-born painter Adam Elsheimer, is one of the relatively few pictures in the Iconographic Collections which are of prime importance to historians of art because of their association with a major artist. Documentation enables us to follow the painting from 1927, when it was offered for sale at Cologne, to the identification and publication of the picture in 1977-78 and to its recent exhibition in Germany.

1. 1927 The picture left a German private collection, changed hands twice and was offered for sale in Cologne as a painting by Elsheimer. It was unsold.
2. 1928 It was bought privately by Wellcome from the Dutch dealer who owned it; D. Pender Davidson, the curator in charge of the paintings, accessioned it as CC 4876 in the Wellcome register of paintings. In view of its provenance, it was assigned to the Dutch School.
3. 1973 Dr. Renate Burgess, Keeper of Art Collections 1964-81, sent a photograph of the painting to the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, in search of a more precise attribution. Several scholars whom she had consulted privately suggested it was Dutch, c.1600, but the curator in Amsterdam doubted this.
4. 1975 Turning to Germany, Dr. Burgess sent a photograph to the Augsburg Museum, whose curator agreed that the style of the painting suggested an origin in the German School, but no artist's name came to mind.
5. 1977 Dr. Gode Krämer of the Augsburg Museum saw the photograph and letter of 1975, remembered the Cologne auction catalogue of 1927, put the two together, and suggested the attribution to Elsheimer. Scholars had previously failed to recognize the painting as Elsheimer's because it was an early work from his German period (c.1598), and not in the familiar style of his later Italian period (1600-10).

6. 1978 Krämer published his discovery in **Pantheon** (Munich).
7. 1983 The picture was exhibited in an exhibition to celebrate the 900th anniversary of the church of Saint Elizabeth in Marburg, W. Germany, and subsequently for six months in the Städelsches Kunstinstitut in Elsheimer's native town, Frankfurt-am-Main.

Gode Krämer, 'Ein wiedergefundenes Bild aus der Frühzeit Elsheimers', **Pantheon** 1978, **36**, 319-326. Keith Andrews, 'Once more Elsheimer', **The Burlington Magazine** 1979, **121**, 168-172. Brigitte Rechberg, **Die heilige Elisabeth in der Kunst – Abbild, Vorbild, Wunschbild**. Marburg: Ausstellungsgesellschaft Elisabeth von Thüringen. 1983, no. 55.

Wellcome bought pictures of medical scenes for the documentary details recorded in them. Such details are often incidental, but in this case the painter, an Antwerp master, knew what he was doing: the scene is set in a surgeon's house, equipped with an array of surgical and pharmaceutical equipment. The stooping and inclining figures, depicted from behind and beside, are composed to convey precisely the illusion of reality and movement which represents one valued form of medical iconography.

In the centre the surgeon, probably the man with the white tie-wig, supervises an operation which is being performed by his younger colleague or apprentice.

Bought at Christie's, 1924.

Above Case 13 Emile-Edouard Mouchy [1802-c.1870]. **A physiology lesson**. Oil on canvas, 112 × 143 cms. Signed and dated 1832.

The practice of experimental physiology as shown in this painting was fully established by French scientists in the half-century 1790-1840, and above all by François Magendie [1783-1855]. Magendie may be the white-aproned operator in the centre: he performs an experiment on a living dog for the benefit of twelve students who discuss the significance of what they are seeing.

Most such pictures were produced as propaganda **against** vivisection, but probably not this one, in view of the painter's evident appreciation of the scientific character of this form of research. A full interpretation of this exceptional painting will only be possible when the details of its early provenance are found. Preliminary research in the records of the Salon has been frustrated by the fact that the Salon for 1832, the date of the painting, was cancelled owing to the cholera epidemic of that year.

Above Case 14 Jan-Joseph Horemans the elder [1682-1759]. **Interior of a surgery with an operation in progress**. Oil on canvas, 52.4 × 59.8 cms. Indistinctly inscribed '1721' (?) on the almanac in the left background, perhaps referring to the date of the painting. Iconographic Coll. no. P.15/1974.



36. Portrait of Antonius Busennius, during restoration in 1986.
Above Case 15.

Case 15 CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT: OIL PAINTINGS

Mechanical damage, fungal and insect attack, atmospheric changes and pollution can all cause problems to different parts of a painting. Intervention to eliminate the causes of damage, to consolidate the physical structure and to secure the fragile paint-layer

can be pursued through a number of different techniques, ranging from the drastic (e.g. transferring the paint-layer to a new and stable support) to the preventive (e.g. providing a controlled environment). Where doubt exists, care is taken to under-restore, so that the original concept and the original paint are not altered. With the discreet use of adhesives, backings, underpinning and supportive framing, most symptoms of decay can be put right and the process of ageing slowed down.

Restoration consists of one or more stages, depending on the state of the picture. Some of these stages are visible in the photographs showing the restoration in 1985-86 (fig. 1) of the sole surviving portrait of Antonius Busennius [1511-70], professor of medicine at Louvain and city physician at Antwerp from 1550.

1. **surface cleaning** involves removal of surface dirt, dust and the deposit of tobacco smoke.
2. **removal of old and discoloured varnish.** The Busennius portrait was disfigured by two layers of brown 19th-century varnish (fig. 2). In fig. 3, both layers have been removed from the upper left quarter of the picture but they still cover the rest of the painting, the later layer being most evident in the yellow parts, where it is thicker. Both layers were subsequently removed with solvents.
3. **removal of discoloured repaint.** In some paintings the paint used by earlier restorers to cover paint-losses has been casually applied and covers areas of original paint. All old repairs become discoloured with age and therefore have to be removed, sometimes with solvents, sometimes with a scalpel as in fig. 4.
4. **retouching.** In this final stage, small areas of paint-loss, visible in fig. 5, are touched in with a fine brush using materials which are easily reversible and will not discolour.

5. **revarnishing.** Modern synthetic varnishes have replaced the old oil and resin varnishes which yellowed and darkened rapidly.

Anon., circle of Adriaen Thomaszoon Key. **Portrait of Antonius Busennius.** Oil on panel, 75.4 × 63.2 cm. Antwerp. 1570. Cleaned and restored 1985-86. Iconographic Coll. no. p.162/1947.

Case 15 CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT: BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS



37. Domenico di Lodi, *Libro del modo de governar cavalli*, after restoration and rebinding in 1986. Case 15.2.

The Institute's Conservation Department deals with books and manuscripts from both East and West. It has an essential role in preserving the Wellcome legacy for the future. Its task requires both theoretical knowledge and mastery of technique, for it is necessary to be able

to identify the materials used in the production of a book or manuscript, the reactions of the materials to various treatments, and the suitability of such techniques and materials for the result required. The book is seen as the artefact of a wider cultural heritage, not as an isolated item.

Ideally, conservation should return a book as nearly as possible to its original condition. The book should be structurally sound and durable, any repair skilful and unobtrusive, and the overall result historically accurate and aesthetically pleasing.

Yet each volume requires individual consideration, and the ideal may have to be modified, depending on, for example, the quality of its paper, its historical significance, its value, or its potential use. It is desirable to preserve all parts of a valuable historic binding of a book primarily used for exhibition purposes. On the other hand, if the book is likely to be read often, it is wiser to replace the most vulnerable areas of the binding with new materials in the style and kind of the original. Where finance for a proper restoration is not available or where it is doubtful whether the value of a book justifies the expense, the volume can be protected by a box or by acid-free wrappers or board. This procedure is also followed when full details of what should or can be done with a damaged volume are lacking, for delay is generally preferable to makeshift or temporary repairs. No book that has lasted half a century will fall to pieces overnight for lack of immediate conservation, and haste and ignorance have often ruined interesting and valuable books. To avoid such problems, and to ensure as productive a system of conservation as possible, the Conservation Department works for each section of the Library in turn. Items for conservation can thus be identified and discussed well in advance.

Figure 3 shows three examples of recent conservation work.

Figure 2: Leonardo Dati di Stagio [d. 1426]. **Sfera Mundi**. Italy. 1406. Lat. Western MS. 230. Fol. 14. Restored 1986. Levant binding by Riviere.

All books and manuscripts are carefully checked and photographed before restoration begins and before any leaves are removed for individual cleaning. Diagnostic tests are run to determine the pH. level of acidity of the paper, which, if too high, will lead to further deterioration. Paper may require to be further strengthened and the inks stabilised.

In this manuscript the watercolours presented special problems. They were first tested for solubility, and fugitive colours treated with a safe chemical fixative which might, if desired, be removed later. Before the pages were washed, old repairs and adhesive stains were removed. Deacidification was not necessary here, but parchment size was applied to strengthen the cellulose fibres within the paper. To repair the many tears and missing areas, hand-made paper, Japanese tissue and rice starch paste were chosen for their quality, appearance and reversibility.

2. Domenico di Lodì [fl. 1516]. **Libro del modo de governar cavalli et medicar li**. Bari. 1516. Western MS 437. Binding. Restored 1986.

The original binding of this manuscript (stamped leather over wooden boards) had not only suffered general surface damage, but also had clasps missing, a crudely re-backed spine and wormholes in the boards. The pages had also been damaged by insects, especially in the first seven and last thirty-four folios, and by water-stains in its second half. Corners of pages were damaged through use, their edges were torn and brittle, and greasy fingermarks appeared throughout, especially on the foreedges.

The damaged folios were restored and the whole manuscript was rebound. New endpapers were made and an unbleached linen joint sewn on three hemp cords, with paper guards placed around each section to prevent damage to the spine folds of each separate section. The spine was lined with hand-made paper, and end-bands of the appropriate period and

style were sewn on with unbleached linen thread. The book was bound in a full brown leather, and a similar design to the original was blind-tooled on to the cover. Finally, it was placed in a box designed to protect the original binding.

3. **Gajendramokṣaṇa**, Sanskrit MS. Delta 38(vi). Fol. 198v. Restored 1986.

Unlike the western manuscripts on display, which have leather bindings, this Indian manuscript has an embroidered cover with the binding sewn along the outside of the spine. The spine itself is covered by another piece of embroidered cloth. However, for the restoration of the manuscript's interior, the same procedure was followed as for western material. The hand-coloured illustrations were first tested for pigment stability, washed, and the paper deacidified. Where the illustrations had been torn or damaged, new paper was carefully matched for colour, weight and finish, and then applied with a very fine Japanese tissue and pure rice starch adhesive so that the work done on the missing areas within the illustrations should resemble the original as closely as possible.



38. Domenico di Lodì, **Libro del modo de governar cavalli**, before restoration and rebinding.

THE TRANSFORMATION OF KNOWLEDGE: THE WELLCOME INSTITUTE TODAY

The first part of this exhibition has concentrated upon the books and objects acquired by Sir Henry Wellcome and by the Wellcome Trustees. But were the Institute to act simply as a repository for the treasures of the past, however well preserved, it would be failing to pursue the broad vision of its founder, who regarded the history of medicine equally with medical science as a proper object for research. It is no coincidence that the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum was, at the time of its foundation in 1913, affiliated to the Wellcome Bureau of Scientific Research. In Wellcome's vision of history, research meant the gaining of new knowledge from the material assembled, be they plants, chemicals or books. The second part of this exhibition shows how the present activities of the Institute are directed, not just to the acquisition of objects, but also to the transformation of knowledge.

Panel A THE ORGANISATION OF THE INSTITUTE

Since 1977 the organisation of the Institute has been revised to take account of its various activities. The overall strategy is directed by the Honorary Director, Sir William Paton, F.R.S., while the day-to-day responsibility for the running of the Institute rests with the Deputy Director and Librarian, Mr. E.J. Freeman. The Institute has three main divisions, the Library, the Academic Unit, and the Administration. This division, it should be stressed, is an organisational one, for staff in all three groups participate in the Institute's many intellectual activities.

Cases 16-17

THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INSTITUTE

In the last five years an increasing number of readers and visitors has been attracted to the Institute (Case 16). They have come to consult the collections and read in the Library, to participate in the programme of lectures and seminars, or to combine business and pleasure at an Institute soirée. The tradition of exhibitions on the history of medicine has been maintained, and many visitors have thereby gained instruction on subjects as diverse as plague, Tibetan medicine, and addiction (Case 17).

Links have also been formed with many other societies, both medical and historical, and with other institutions of learning world-wide. The Institute now stands at the very centre of the world of medical history, and its importance as a propagator of knowledge continues to grow.



39. A reception, with the Victorian Society, after a joint symposium on hospitals. April 1986.

THE LIBRARY: ACCESS TO RESOURCES

The Library remains the hub of the Institute, and it is the librarians in charge of its various sections (Panel B) who have the primary responsibility for making its resources available to scholars.

Case 18

THE CATALOGUES

Access to the collections is made possible by the catalogues, whose variety reflects the variety of the collections themselves. Some catalogues, such as the card catalogues of printed books and autograph letters, can only be used in the Library itself, but a policy of publishing catalogues of the Library's holdings has long been established. Since 1954, when the **Catalogue of incunabula** was published, a steady stream of catalogues has appeared, both as substantial volumes and, for the more specialised collections, as articles in learned journals (see pp.68-69 below). Since 1984, there have also been issued briefer and more general guides to some of the collections. Most of the printed catalogues have been issued under the Library's own imprint, but the Library's **Subject catalogue**, an invaluable guide to the secondary literature in the history of medicine, was published in eighteen volumes by Kraus International Publications in 1980.

All the printed books were, until recently, recorded in a conventional card catalogue, and for the foreseeable future this will continue to be so for the early printed books up to 1850. Since 1984, however, all new acquisitions of printed books published after 1850 have been catalogued on computer and the records made available on microfiche.



40. **Subject catalogue of the history of medicine and related sciences.** 18 vols. 1980.

A major programme is currently under way to convert the entire post-1850 section of the catalogue into machine-readable format, using the services of OCLC (Online Computer Library Centre). The Institute's membership of this Ohio-based organisation gives it access to a database of more than 13 million records, created and shared by nearly 6,000 libraries in the U.S.A. and Europe, including the National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, Maryland, and the Library of Congress. The use of already existing records speeds the conversion process, while, in turn, the Library contributes records describing its own unique holdings for the benefit of its fellow members of OCLC.

During this initial phase of library automation, the physical manifestation of the rapidly growing Wellcome database is a microfiche catalogue, consisting of name and subject sequences, updated every month. In the next phase, the database will be mounted as an inhouse online catalogue, which library users will consult at computer terminals. It will be searchable in various ways, by title, keyword, language and date as well as by name and subject. Remote access, from terminals in other libraries or from users' own homes, is also foreseen.



41. A view of a strong room, with early printed books. 1986.

SERVICES TO READERS

The Library Enquiry Desk is the focal point for most of the services to readers. Here new readers register and are given a guide to the library and the intricacies of the catalogues. Order slips for books in the Enfield and Bentley House stores, as well as for those in the strong-rooms of the Wellcome Building, are handed in at the Desk, where enquiries in person or by telephone are also dealt with. The many postal queries from researchers unable to visit the Library in person are answered by the appropriate specialist member of staff (see pp.70-71 below).

Although the books in the Library are for reference only and cannot be borrowed by individuals, the Library participates fully in the national inter-library loan scheme.



42. Readers at the Library Desk. 1986.

Case 19

REPROGRAPHIC SERVICES

The reprographic services of the Library provide photographs, slides, microfilms and photocopies for scholarly purposes. In 1984-85 they made 3,354 photographic prints, 1,837 slides, and 28,445 frames of microfilm, almost 40% of which were requested by scholars outside the United Kingdom. They have illustrated a wide range of academic publications, from theses and learned journals to school texts and even examination papers.

Case 20 CURRENT WORK IN THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

Current Work, a quarterly publication founded by Dr. F.N.L. Poynter in 1954, links the reference activities of the library closely to academic research by providing a subject and author guide to recent work on the history of medicine in the widest sense. It is compiled from journals taken by the Library, from offprints donated by their authors, and from references published elsewhere, the most important of which are the listings provided by the National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, Maryland. All the references in **Current Work** are later incorporated in the Library's Subject catalogue.

In addition, **Current Work** contains a list of new books in the history of medicine (most of which are acquired by the Library), and a list of authors' addresses, which are otherwise by no means easy to discover. It is consulted widely both in Britain and overseas, since it frequently provides the quickest guide to new information in the history of medicine.

THE ACADEMIC UNIT

The Academic Unit of the Wellcome Institute was formed in 1977 to promote teaching and research in the history of medicine. The interests of its nine members span the whole of the Western tradition of medicine, from the ancient Greeks to the present day (Panel D). The Unit is linked with the Unit of the History of Medicine at University College London, where the head of the Institute's Academic Unit, Dr. W.F. Bynum, holds a readership, and where its other members hold honorary teaching appointments.

Case 21

TEACHING

Lectures in the history of medicine are given to undergraduates who are taking the London B.A. or B.Sc. degree, and are held in the Institute and in University College. In 1985-86, 161 students from various disciplines attended one or more of the lecture courses. Since 1977 it has been possible for a small number of students from the London medical schools (11 in 1985-86) to study the history of medicine for an academic year after completing their pre-clinical courses. These students, who are attached to University College, attend all the B.Sc. courses offered by members of the Unit and gain a B.Sc. degree in addition to their medical degree. Of the 72 such students since 1977, eleven have gained first class honours, and 42 upper second class honours. Three have been awarded prizes by their medical schools for being the best student in their year.

The members of the Unit also teach for the more advanced post-graduate degree of M.Sc., as well as supervising candidates for doctorates. Between 1978 and 1986 nineteen students successfully completed their Ph.D. dissertations under the supervision of members of the Unit.



43. A lecture to M.Sc. students in the Seminar Room. 1986.

University teaching occupies only one part of the educational effort of the Unit. A fortnightly research seminar on the history of medicine is held in the Institute, and has so far explored the history of psychiatry, the interrelations between doctor and patient, the history of medicine in London, and the history of hospitals. There are also smaller reading groups, and, since 1984, a joint seminar with the Department of the History of Science, University College, on Arabic medicine and science. There is also

a programme of one-day symposia on such topics as plague, Samuel Johnson, and the history of clinical trials. All these are open to the general public and have attracted a large and varied audience. The symposia in particular have provided a forum for historical debate about questions of contemporary relevance, while the series of Wellcome Public Lectures has helped to draw attention to the importance of medicine in the understanding of the past.

Case 22

RESEARCH

Together with the Library staff, the Academic Unit provides the greatest concentration of knowledge about the history of medicine in the world, and scholars from many countries are increasingly coming to London to take advantage of Wellcome expertise. Members of the Unit also assist the Wellcome Research Fellows (who receive grants from the Wellcome Trust to spend up to three years researching into the history of medicine) and other advanced students attached to the Institute.

To characterise briefly the research being carried out within the Unit and by the visiting Fellows is an impossible task. The selection of recent books and papers on display by members of the Institute staff and Wellcome Research Fellows offers a glimpse of the range of activity, from the Greeks and Arabs to a London hospital in 1985, but cannot easily reveal its quality. Of that, the best evidence may be found in the many invitations to the members of the Academic Unit and to other members of the Institute staff to lecture or to act as consultants. As the two panels E-F show, since 1980 they have spoken to audiences in most of the countries of Western Europe and in many cities of the

U.S.A. and Canada, as well as visiting the Middle East, Malaysia, Indonesia and Japan. Nearer to home, they have spoken to medical groups and to historians throughout Britain, from Aberdeen to Southampton, and from Colchester to Bangor. They have been the official guests of the League of Arab States, the British Council, the East German Society for the History of Medicine, The Finnish Academy of Sciences, the Fondazione Cini (Italy), the Hannah Foundation (Canada), the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences, the Taniguchi Foundation (Japan), the Mexican government and the Universities of Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Marburg and Uppsala, as well as of many other distinguished universities and societies.

This broad range of countries and institutions shows the growing influence of the Institute as a major international centre for the history of medicine, and the importance of the Academic Unit as a leader in setting appropriate standards for medical history. Research students and Fellows from the Institute have already gained academic positions in Germany, Italy, Canada and the U.S.A., as well as in Britain, and several former undergraduates have now begun to publish on the history of medicine. The union of research and teaching within the Academic Unit is beginning to bear fruit.

Medical History

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE HISTORY OF
MEDICINE AND RELATED SCIENCES



Volume 30 · Number 1 · January 1986

THE WELLCOME INSTITUTE FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

Founded in 1957 by W.J. Bishop [1903-61], Librarian 1946-53, and edited since then from the Institute, **Medical History** is the leading British journal in the field and enjoys an international reputation for the quality of its articles and reviews. Its contributors come from all over the world, from Norway to Sri Lanka, as well as from the U.S.A. and Britain.

The journal's cover, designed by Peter Voce, incorporates a Renaissance emblem of 1611 by Gabriel Rollenhagen [1583-c.1619]. For Rollenhagen, each piece of the emblem carried symbolic meaning: the tree signified stability, the windmill productivity, and the two snakes medicine as well as wisdom, which is, as the inscription says, 'the preserver of the past', a sentiment shared by the present editorial team.

Since 1981 an annual supplement to **Medical History** has been produced. These monographs have treated subjects as diverse as ancient theories of fever and modern cardiology, a French physiologist and English apothecaries, and one of Rembrandt's most famous paintings, 'The Anatomy of Dr. Tulp'.

44. The 1986 issue of **Medical History** includes articles on Henry Wellcome as a collector and on the work of the Wellcome Trust.

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1941–1945	S.H. Daukes, OBE, MD
1946–1964	E.A. Underwood, MD, FRCP
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